FBIS DAILY REPORT
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SENATOR DENIES U.S. INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED

PY291618 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1413 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Concordia, Entre Rios, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- Radical Senator Fernando de la Rua has said it is absolutely false that information was received from the United States regarding the activities of groups that intended to destabilize Argentina's constitutional government. In statements to the local daily, CONCORDIA, De la Rua said that the state of siege was imposed in order to prevent the release of the detainees; it would have been unwise not to do so in view of the serious events they are involved in. He explained that the first decree, No 2049-85, which was restricted to these detentions, aimed to prevent the declaration of a state of siege, which in the end could not be avoided.

Regarding the criticisms of the government by some opposition sectors over the state of siege, De la Rua said that this is not the proper time to call attention to formal matters, because the most important thing now is to use all available legal means to dismantle groups of plotters posing a threat to the Argentine people's desire for peace.

MARTINEZ NOTES SENSELESSNESS OF COUP D'ETAT

PY292047 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1503 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez today said that the government was well advised when it adopted certain measures to avoid the interruption of our goals; that is, not only to hold elections as scheduled but for the Argentine nation to take the proper path, with or without the holding of elections.

Regarding the convocation of a meeting with political parties to study the prevailing social unrest, Martinez said that this is a possibility, but that those who are responsible for carrying out the bomb attacks are not members of political parties. We believe that the great majority of Argentines are against violence and that citizens groups, like political parties, are even more so. Talking to "Radio Mitre," Martinez added: We believe that we all support these measures and these great objectives. Those who oppose them are in a small minority which has yet to understand the meaning of democracy.

Commenting on the inconsistency of some measures, Martinez said that he disliked that word, and he added: I would rather talk about mistakes, because it is worse to talk about inconsistencies than to talk about mistakes because the first presupposes negligence and irrational actions, whereas mistakes can be made by judges. I have been active in the federal justice system for 14 years, and judges and legislators do make many mistakes; they make both substantive and formal mistakes. In this case, there have been formal mistakes, which were probably the result of hastiness, or perhaps because too many people were involved. But the executive branch has rectified these mistakes.

Martinez noted that there is a difference between a state of siege enforced by a dictatorship that applies it to all national activities and a state of siege enforced in compliance with the Constitution by a constitutional government that is perfectly aware of the extent of the measure. The activities of political parties have not been curtailed, meetings have not been banned, and mobilizations have not been banned.

Although established in the Constitution, no one wants to suspend the rights and guarantees of citizens. But citizens must be reminded that sometimes one enforces measures that one likes and other times one enforces measures that one dislikes. The ones that were recently enforced were aimed at guaranteeing the rights of all citizens.

Alluding to the inauguration of the San Lorenzo Port and the National Potato Festival, both of which were held in Santa Fe Province, Martinez said that on 26 October he attended two festivities held during the full enforcement of the state of siege.

Martinez wondered: What is the sense of a coup d'etat? Is it to express your opinion? Is it to impose your position? Why do it if you can do that now through a congress that is functioning? A coup d'etat is unjustified.

He noted that the Radical Civic Union [UCR] will be successful in the elections in Cordoba, adding: The Cordoba government is an exemplary government. It is a government of peace, work, and development. I believe that the people have no other alternative than to reelect the provincial government.

Regarding the delay by the Japanese firm Honda to start operating in Cordoba, Martinez attributed this delay to administrative matters. All this is part of the rights and wrongs, but in the end this is a country that is working and that is going forward.

DEFENSE MININISTRY SOURCE VIEWS SITUATION

PY292327 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2228 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- A highly place Defense Ministry source said this afternoon the situation in the Armed Forces is under control and any side effects created by recent official measures have been overcome. The source also announced that the Defense Ministry has submitted a request to the court regarding the unconstitutionality of an article of the habeas corpus law approved by the government.

The source pointed out that the measures implemented by the government have been able to control "a large part" of the distribution of pamphlets being carried out in the garrisons.

Regarding General Guillermo Suarez Mason, retired, the source said "everyone has said he has been living in Miami for some time and that he frequently travels to Paraguay and Sao Paulo."

The source also expressed surprise "at the many lawyers who came to the defense of those arrested by the executive branch, lawyers who were collaborators of the military dictatorship."

He explained that during the meeting the president held yesterday with the chiefs of the Armed Forces, Raul Alfonsin expressed his concern "because he believes that some of the people may think or believe that we were returning to the past." He added that the meeting was not included in the announced presidential agenda "in order to not create unfounded fears."

Regarding Suarez Mason, he pointed out that two requests for his arrest have been submitted to Interpol.

He then denied that the government received U.S. aid or intelligence reports to implement the measures linked to the state of siege.

He also denied that there is a state of deliberation in the Army, but admitted that the declarations made yesterday by Guillermo Kelly obviously annoyed the Army. He said that "there are no obvious reasons to arrest any more officers," either on active duty or retired, emphasizing that it is up to the courts to decide if some recorded conversations are enough evidence to order arrests.

Concerning military promotions, he explained that although the lists have not been officially submitted by the chiefs of the Joint Staff, "the question will be resolved in the next few days." He added that the executive branch intends to have Congress debating the question before the end of the year. He further explained that the government intends to send Congress the promotion lists along with a call for special congressional sessions.

As for the number of generals who will go into retirement, he estimated that the number of "seven or eight is too high," and that changes in the Navy and Air Force will be "minimal."

He was later asked whether the government believes that the situation in the Army has been overcome and is under control, to which he replied: He reiterated that the distribution of pamphlets in the Army has lessened in number. As for the current Joint Staff chiefs of the three services and the Armed Forces Joint Staff, he said that the government plans to keep them in their posts. Regarding a newspaper report that indicated General Medrano Caro may replace General Hector Rios Erenu as Army Joint Staff Chief, he dismissed that possibility completely and said that "since General Medrano Caro travelled with Jaunarena to Spain, a cannon shell was fired at him"

Finally, he indicated that the arms cache found in the area of the metropolitian port "does not have much importance."

As to whether the Defense Ministry had requested that Article 4 of the habeas corpus law be declared unconstitutional, he said that "a lawyer from that ministry has requested it because we think that article goes against the spirit of the Constitution." The article of the habeas corpus law that is being questioned grants judges the authority to determine the reasonableness of arrests the executive branch may order under a state of siege.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES OAS OF STATE OF SIEGE

PY292156 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2030 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Oct (NA) -- Argentina today officially notified the OAS of the implementation of the state of siege in its territory in view of "the new and growing acts of violence" that are "creating a clearly destabilizing situation," but noting that individual rights are being preserved. The Foreign Ministry had released a communique reporting that the official notification complies with Article 27 of the San Jose de Costa Rica Pact, which establishes the obligation to report on the implementation of exceptional measures. Gaston de Prast Gay, the Argentine ambassador to the OAS, delivered the notification to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

The note says that the decree implementing the state of siege "does not violate any of the rights established in Article 27, Clause 2, of the San Jose Pact." The note adds that this decision was made "in view of the new and growing acts of violence through the indiscriminate explosion of bombs, and the threats and acts of intimidation made on 24 October that affected the regular operation of 49 elementary schools in Buenos Aires." The note says that the intimidations "are, without any doubt, creating a clearly destabilizing situation aimed at threatening the Constitution and constitutional bodies." In conclusion, the note says that "the strengthening of democracy will prevent the return of social and political repression. In order to preserve peace among the Argentine people, and to consolidate the achievements made, the legally established authorities must give clear, definite, and urgent solutions."

POLITICAL CIRCLES DEBATE STATE OF SIEGE

PY300030 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Oct 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Argentine political circles continued to hum with an intense debate on the virtues and demerits of the state of siege declared last Friday to such an extent that the congressional midterm elections now only five days away were virtually ignored.

Senator Fernando De la Rua (Radical-Capital) again sprung to the defence of the state of siege, saying it was essential to preserve the peace. He said the judges had had no right to demand evidence from the government to justify the arrest of conspiracy suspects and were stripping society of the protection provided by Article 23 of the Constitution. The 1973 vice presidential candidate went on to explain the rationality supervision (control de razonabilidad) clause in the habeas corpus law (23098) which he himself sponsored. This clause grants judges the power to determine whether arrests under state-of-siege provisions are legitimate or arbitrary. The Radical senator, who chairs the Upper House constitutional affairs committee, said the clause was intended to establish a reasonable connection between the causes for establishing the state of siege and for making arrests in its name. Thus if the government used the present bomb scare to make arrests without any evidence for violence at a football game, there would clearly be no reasonable connection and the judge would have every right to reverse the arrests. But in the present cases, the reason for the arrests of the 12 suspected conspirators were clearly similar to the reasons for calling the state of siege, he concluded.

Another Radical constitutional expert, Deputy Jorge Vanossi, insisted that there was no conflict of powers in the matter and pronounced himself against a "government of judges" who arrogated to themselves the right to decide whether or not the state of siege should go ahead. The judges' function was one of control, he said. Vanossi, the chairman of the Lower House constitutional affairs committee, said the arrests had only been rejected by lower-level judges in any case and these had been overruled by higher courts. Like De la Rua, he maintained that there was a perfect relationship between the causes of the state of siege and the arrests and that there was no need for evidence.

Meanwhile the Santa Fe branch of the Radical party declared a state of mobilization to support the government against the antidemocratic offensive.

The main Peronist politicians to address themselves to the problem recently were 1983 presidential candidate Italo Argentino Luder and Carlos Grosso, the top Justicialist congressional candidate in the capital. Luder, a constitutional law professor, said the government would have to call Congress as the only body authorized to declare a state of siege, adding that in the final analysis the courts would have to decide the cases of those arrested. He further accused the government of declaring the state of siege to cover up errors made in the original arrest of the 12 (Decree 2049). The Peronist did not directly contradict De la Rua's interpretation of the rationality supervision clause, but insisted that only the courts could decide on the relation between the causes of the state of siege and of the case in question, predicting that the cases could well go all the way to the Supreme Court.

On a campaign swing through La Pampa, Luder said he would not call the present situation an "antisubversive struggle," but said the government would have to do everything possible to calm things down. Luder repudiated all violence. The ex-candidate refused to comment on accusations by ex-President Arturo Frondizi that the government itself was behind the bombings.

Grosso said he was not afraid of "sick minorities" at a major party rally on Sunday night, also casting suspicion on the government's motives for calling the state of siege.

In other Peronist reactions, Santa Cruz governor Arturo Puricelli endorsed the government move, but Retired Lieutenant Julian Licastro, running against Grosso's mainstream Justicialists as the top candidate for the Liberation Front (FRELI) list, said it was a manoeuvre to make the elections a "plebiscite on the deceptive slogan 'Alfonsin or chaos."

In left-of-centre reactions, Intransigent Party Chairman Mariano Lorences said in Rio Cuarto that calling Congress was a matter of urgency but that the Intransigents would support the government to the extent that it used the state of siege to "dismantle the repressive apparatus." But socialist Emilio Corbiere feared the state of siege could be used against the CGT and the working-calls.

In other reactions, the National Republican Encounter endorsed the Democrats' call for the convening of Congress and the resignation of President Raul Alfonsin as Radical Party leader, calling the arrests arbitrary and unbacked by evidence.

Rural Society President Guillermo Alchouron expressed his repudiation of the wave of violence while repeating his criticism of forced savings.

The Association of Buenos Aires Journalists (APBA) called for allout support for every measure taken to dismantle the repressive apparatus and prevent a coup d'etat, pointing out that even under a state of siege the freedom of expression and assembly were being respected.

The Committee for the Defence of Democracy, which links human rights groups, political parties and labour organizations, called a general rally to protest the bomb scares in schools. Senate minority leader Antonio Napoli (Radical-Rio Negro), Intransigent Deputy Miguel Monserrat, and Methodist Bishop Federico Pagura were among those organizing the rally.

Finally, Retired Colonel Horacio Ballester, the chairman of the Centre of Servicemen for Democracy (CEMIDA), said the state of siege was necessary to defend democracy against extremist groups and that the arrests were important so that nobody felt immune.

WEAPONS, TORTURE, PAMPHLETS LINKED TO SUAREZ

PY221018 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0901 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- A cassette recording of the interrogation of a person while being tortured was found during a police raid, conducted a few days ago, on a private investigation agency linked to former General Guillermo Suarez Mason, a fugitive from justice. This was reported by Jorge Banos, a lawyer from the Social and Legal Studies Center [Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales -- CESLS] to LA RAZON daily, which published his statements today. Banos said that the tortured individual might be one of those who was recently kidnapped, because the question put to him are about economic matters.

According to Banos, both sides of the cassette begin with "German lessons," which are immediately interrupted by "noises and the voice of an individual who is being tortured and who is begging. Judging from the questions asked, the person being tortured could be one of the businessmen kidnapped in the last few months." Banos explained that one of the voices allegedly belongs to police officer Gustavo Eklund, one of those in charge of the investigation agency that was raided by order of Judge Carlos Olivieri at the request of Banos and lawyer Marcelo Parrilli, who in turn acted on the basis of charges made by the magazine HUMOR.

Banos also reported that large caliber weapons, military uniforms, pamphlets announcing the return of the Montoneros terrorist group, and several Mace cans were found during the raid.

COURTS GRANT FURTHER GOVERNMENT APPEALS

PY291808 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Trial Judge Rodolfo (Ricotadendi) early this morning approved a writ of habeas corpus filed on behalf of journalist Horacio Rodriguez, whose arrest had been ordered by the Executive Branch (?through) the state of siege. In the judge's ruling, which was revealed this morning at 0315, the Interior Ministry was told to refrain from arresting Rodriguez. In addition, the ruling states that this will remain in effect until the final ruling of the 6th Criminal Court is handed down this afternoon. The previous ruling, which confirmed the provisions established under Decree 2070, was appealed by the journalist's counsel, Alberto Rodriguez Varela, and now the Supreme Court of Justice must hand down a decision in this regard.

Judge (Ricotadendi) decided to use testimony recorded in the appropriate court records in order to investigate the commission of a possible public action crime against the plaintiff -- that is, Rodriguez -- and sent them to Court No 4, which is on duty today.

Decree Ruled Constitutional

PY291827 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1725 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (TELAM) -- The fourth Criminal Court has revoked the resolution issued by Judge Luis Velazco, who had declared unconstitutional Decree 2070, which ordered the arrest of Captain Osvaldo Antinori, retired. It refused to accept the habeas corpus appeal that was submitted in favor of the retired military officer.

After acknowledging the constitutionality of the decree that was issued by the Executive Branch after the enforcement of the state of siege, the criminal court decided to study the federal case that was presented by both parties as a last appeal to the Supreme Court.

More Petitions Rejected

PY292137 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2050 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Oct (NA) -- The Fifth and Seventh Appellate Criminal Courts this afternoon turned down preventive habeas corpus petitions [recursos de habeas corpus preventivos] filed on behalf of Rosendo Fraga, Jr., and of Raul Rivanera Carles, it has been reported by court sources.

Judge Rodolfo Ricotta Demby has upheld a petition by Colonel Pascual Guerrieri's lawyers to declare the measure taken against their client unconstitutional.

PRESIDENT CONCERNED OVER DROP IN TIN PRICES

PY291438 Paris AFP in Spanish 0022 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] La Paz, 28 Oct (AFP) -- In a speech delivered today, President Victor Paz Estenssoro termed the drop in tin prices on the international market and the paralysis of the London Metals Exchange a disaster for Bolivia.

Paz Estenssoro made these statements when receiving a delegation of mineworkers of his party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR]. Paz said that the production costs of one pound of tin in Bolivia averages over $11 per pound, while its international price is a bit more than $5 per pound. He also said that while Bolivia's total tin production had reached 9,000 tons this year, a single Brazilian company has offered 18,000 tons on the international market.

He explained that tin in Bolivia is extracted from underground mines, while other countries such as Brazil and some in Southeast Asia (Malasia, Thailand, and Indonesia) have alluvial tin deposits.

Paz Estenssoro also spoke of the need to begin an operation to save Bolivia by utilizing its labor resources within a rational economic framework.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC PROGRAM SEEN SUCCEEDING

PY280644 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1946 GMT 27 Oct 85

[By Juana Maria Calvo]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 27 Oct (EFE) -- Two months after the implementation of the new economic policy, the Bolivian inflation rate, which earlier stood at 20,000 percent annually, has been virtually brought to a stop. Planning Minister Guillermo Bedregal, the strongman of Victor Paz Estenssoro's administration, today reported that the country's international reserves now stand at $200 million, compared to less than $23 million in August.

The first days of his administration were not easy for 78-year-old Paz Estenssoro, especially after promulgating his 29 August economic plan. "Bolivia is dying on us; we have to take measures to prevent this," Paz Estenssoro said when he took office on 6 August.

During these first weeks, Paz Estenssoro has succeeded in normalizing the country's political situation, which has been seriously affected by 18 years of military rule and by the 3-year democratic coalition government of Hernan Siles Zuazo, who was always being pressured by the Bolivian Labor Federation.

Previously, the official dollar exchange rate stood at 75,0000 pesos per dollar, but the dollar rate on the black market was as high as 1,500,000 pesos per dollar. Now, under a flexible exchange system, the dollar rate has stood at approximately 1,100,000 pesos per dollar and has caused a decline in the prices of staples.

Experts have asserted that the plan will harm small Bolivian industries, whose products cannot compete with those from neighboring countries under a free import system, and will ultimately result in higher unemployment.

Ernesto Fontaine, professor of economics at the Catholic University of Santiago, after noting some positive aspects of the new economic pooicy, today told EFE that one risk posed by this policy is that it encourages one to contract debts, as was the case with Chile.

Bedregal stated that the shock policy applied by the government is bearing fruit because shortages have been overcome, inflation has been moderated, Bolivia has regained the international market's confidence, and the government's seriousness and reliability have been restored.

Presidential Secretary General Guillermo Riveros Tejada told EFE: "We are experimenting with a new solution for the Third World. If we are successful, this experiment will be very important for other countries."

ADN ASKS GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE ECONOMIC POLICY

PY292122 Paris AFP in Spanish 1401 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] La Paz, 29 Oct (AFP) -- The ADN (Nationalist Democratic Action), the main Bolivian opposition force headed by former President Hugo Banzer Suarez, has asked the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro to change his economic policy.

Deputy Alfredo Arce Carpio has said that the economic model imposed by the government on 29 August is based on mining and oil exports, but that the basis of our economy should be on agriculture and livestock. With regard to the government's socioeconomic policies, he said that it is necessary to increase the salaries that were frozen under the new economic plan, beccause the goal to reduce the fiscal deficit has not achieved positive results. He also said that the implementation of the new economic model was a shot in the dark because some programs can be good in theory but bad in practice.

Carlos Serrate Reich, ADN deputy and journalist, criticized the government decree prohibiting public enterprises from investing . He defended the ENAF (National Foundry Enterprise), a company which he said is threatened with disappearing.

DESIGNATION OF CHILEAN CONSUL LEADS TO PROTESTS

PY292140 Paris AFP in Spanish 1350 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] La Paz, 29 Oct (AFP) -- It was officially announced here today that the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies has asked the foreign minister to report on the designation of a Chilean citizen as Bolivia's general consul in Chile.

The opposition bloc has criticized the designation of Benigno Kent as the representative of the Bolivian Government in Santiago, on the grounds that this top-level position should be held by a Bolivian.

Deputy Antonio Ormachea, of the ADN (Nationalist Democratic Action) -- the main oppoisition party -- maintained that even though Kent was born in Bolivia, he became a Chilean citizen in 1983.

Chile and Bolivia broke diplomatic relations in 1976 in a disagreement over the way Bolivia's landlocked situation should be solved. Bolivia lost its access to the sea during the 1879 Pacific War.

NICARAGUA'S RAMIREZ DISCUSSES AREA STABILITY

PA300357 Paris AFP in Spanish 0330 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Brasilia, 29 Oct (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez said today in Brasilia that his country accepts total disarmament, the withdrawal of foreign military advisers, and the adoption of control mechanisms to ensure stability in Central America. In statements to newsmen, Ramirez, who is touring several Latin American countries that support the peace efforts in Central America carried out by the Contadora Group -- Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama -- added that in the Central American region there is no East-West conflict. Ramirez also said that to achieve a stable peace in Central America within the framework of a global agreement by all the countries in the region and the United States, a Latin American solution will have to be found.

The Nicaraguan vice president, who met today in Brasilia with President Jose Sarney and Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal, will travel to Rio de Janeiro tomorrow.

SARNEY TO WELCOME PRC PREMIER AT AIRPORT

PY300141 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Oct 85 p 2

[Text] Brasilia -- Overlooking protocol, President Jose Sarney will welcome PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang on 30 October at the Brasilia Air Base, in a gesture that presidential spokesman Fernando Cesar Mesquita has described as "a special deference." Sarney is hoping to expand trade with the PRC. Brazil is the PRC's leading trading partner in Latin America. A cultural agreement between the two countries will be signed on the occasion of the PRC premier's visit.

USSR, PRC WANT TO EXPAND TRADE RELATIONS

PY250104 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Oct 85 p 13

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- During the 4th International Week of Rio [4a Semana Rio Internacional], the USSR and the PRC, the two largest communist countries, yesterday reasserted their intention to expand trade relations with Brazil. The Chinese have released the list of goods they intend to import but they want the Brazilian Government to sign medium- and long-term trade agreements to reduce Brazil's trade surplus with them and increase the exchange between the two countries to $1.5 billion per year.

According to Xia Guozheng, the commercial attache of the PRC embassy, Brazil is already the PRC's main trading partner in the Third World. In 1986, the Chinese want to purchase 2,000 trucks from Brazil in addition to 600,000 tons of steel, 2.5 million tons of iron ore, aluminum, lumber, chemical fibers, and cellulose. However, they want to sell 3 million tons of crude oil, 300,000 tons of rice, white corn, cotton, metallurgical coke, textiles, and mechanical and light industry products.

Vladislav Kourenkov, the Soviet commercial representative, has already termed the fact that Brazil has reduced its imports of Soviet machinery and equipment from $23 million to $700,000 over the past 10 years as "unpleasant." Kourenkov stated that the USSR will reportedly increase the volume of its imports from Brazil, which now represent only 0.9 percent of its total purchases abroad, but the Brazilian Government should also order more Soviet products.

Forty-five countries are participating in the 4th International Week of Rio with the goal of making deals and becoming familiar with Brazilian foreign-trade policy.

Garcia Lara, the Cuban representative and president of the Chamber of Commerce of Havana, had his entry visa for Brazil approved only late yesterday afternoon. According to the press advisory bureau of the 4th International Week of Rio, the intercession of Amaury Temporal, the president of the Rio de Janeiro Commercial Association, along with that of Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal, were necessary for the Cuban representative to receive his entry visa.

CULTURAL, TECHNOLOGICAL TIES WITH IRAN DISCUSSED

LD270953 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 27 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA -- Brazil announced its readiness to establish cultural and technological cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Friday. Iran's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Javad Mansuri, who is visiting Brazil, discussed Iran-Brazil cooperation in the fields of technology and education in separate meetings with Brazilian Foreign Ministry officials and the country's Minister of Culture. The two sides also agreed to exchange experts to study outlooks of future cooperation in these fields.

GOVERNMENT DENIES AMNESTY ISSUE CAUSED CRISIS

PY290050 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Oct 85 p 4

[Text] A reliable source at Planalto Palace yesterday assured that "there was at no time any threat of a military crisis" in relation to the possibility of the approval of the Uequed amendment during the vote calling for a national constituent assembly. The Uequed amendment, which would have granted a general amnesty to the officers punished by the 1964 military movement and allowed their reinstatement to active duty, ran counter to the position of Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves.

According to the same source, the military ministers personally talked with the leaders of the Democratic Alliance in the National Congress, making it very clear that there was resistance to the Uequed proposal within the Armed Forces. The source also explained that there was no pressure during the meeting President Sarney held with the Democratic Alliance leaders in Congress that was called when the agreement with the military seemed threatened. The president reportedly only "reminded" the political leaders of the existence of an agreement that had to be fulfilled. The source said: "There was no exasperation, because the president had confidence that the political leaders would keep their promise to the military ministers."

Despite the satisfaction over the rejection of the Uequed amendment, there is an environment of apprehension within the Army in relation to the news, considered "wrong," that the Armed Forces pressured congressional leaders to accept General Leonidas Pires Goncalves' position. The intransigency of the Armed Forces over a problem considered to be an internal military matter, a case that Congress is trying to decide on, is not seen by the officers as pressure because an agreement had already been reached in this regard.

Even General Leonidas Pires Goncalves' telephone call to Deputy Pimenta da Veiga, leader of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] in the Chamber of Deputies, was unofficially questioned by the Army. According to the military sources, the deputy called the general on the night of 23 October to discuss the problems encountered during the voting on the amendment. The minister reportedly confirmed the Army position not to negotiate the general and unrestricted amnesty, a position that was already made clear during preliminary meetings with government leaders.

The Army is also concerned that the congressmen will disregard their leaders' position, thus breaking the agreement with the military. Just the same, the majority of military personnel still believe in understanding, negotiations, and dialogue between the executive and the legislative branches or in the last instance between the military and civilian powers to reach a democratic government. Jose Hugo Castelo Branco, minister of the civilian household, also tried to reduce the impact on Planalto Palace of the postponement of the call for the constituent assembly by saying that it was "an incident that happened along the way." He said that the government faced the situation as "something that could happen, something that happened." He added that the postponement was caused by "an unexpected complication," referring to Deputy Uequed's proposal. According to the minister, the people are the ones who lost with the congressional decision, because "they feel disappointed and frustrated by the delay in seeing their national aspirations fulfilled."

SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE INSTALLED

PY300204 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] President Jose Sarney today installed the advisory committee of the Presidential Press and Dissemination Secretariat. The committee, which will be in charge of formulating executive branch policy in the area of social communications, is made up of the professionals of the Presidential Press and Dissemination Secretariat, of the presidents of the BRAZILIAN NEWS AGENCY and Radiobras [Brazilian Radiobroadcasting Company], and of 30 representatives of the Brazilian mass media. Planalto Palace Press Secretary Fernando Cesar Mesquita, the advisory committee's president, has said that the objective of the committee is to broaden the dialogue with society through the mass media. Mesquita explained that the committee will have neither regulatory nor legislative powers. However, it will have political powers.

[Begin Mesquita recording] The recommendations by the advisory committee, which was installed by the president, will be given due consideration. If the president approves the committee's recommendations, they will be implemented. [end recording]

Five subcommittees were created today during the committee's first meeting. The subcommittees will formulate proposals that will be submitted to the advisory committee. Among these subcommittees are those dealing with legal matters and with movie, radio, and television issues. (Roberto Duayleve), of the (DPZ) [expansion unknown], outlined the role that advertising and propaganda agencies will play within the committee.

[Begin (Duayleve) recording] The agencies are cooperating with several subcommittees, particularly with the advertising and propaganda subcommittee. Therefore, we will put forth our proposals at those submittees and at the advisory committee. [end recording]

(Natalio Dantas), president of the National Journalists Federation, has said that the creation of this advisory committee is the first step to the democratization of social communications in Brazil. However, (Dantas) believes the dialogue between the government and the mass media must be broadened.

[Begin (Dantas) recording] The dialogue must be broadened through other initiatives in which not only the mass media but all sectors of society are represented. This can be achieved through the national social communications council, the creation of which was suggested to President Tancredo Neves by the media. Today I asked President Jose Sarney to hold a meeting to discuss the issue. [end recording]

The advisory committee's next meeting will be held on 26 November.

O GLOBO ANALYZES RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

RY242256 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Oct 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Argentina: A Good Partner"]

[Text] Oziris Silva, president of the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer), recently disclosed that Argentine aeronautic authorities have already begun negotiations with this enterprise to acquire 44 turboprop Tucano aircraft for the advanced training of Argentine Air Force cadets. It was also disclosed, almost simultaneously, that during the 20 November meeting between President Jose Sarney and Raul Alfonsin beside the Iguacu River, Brazilian participation in the construction of the Argentine Pichi-Picum-Leufu hydroelectric plant in Neuquen Province will be announced. These two events set the stage for the encouraging possibility of consolidating economic relations between Brazil and Argentina, which are always subject to cyclical crises which hinder plans for a mutual cooperation and the national development of the two countries.

In the first case, the sale of Tucano planes, there are great prospects for cooperation in the aeronautics industry on the Brazilian passenger plane and thw AMX fighter jet. The inaugural flight of the latter is scheduled for today in Sao Jose dos Campos and will be presided over by President Jose Sarney.

In the second case, the construction of the hydroelectric plant in Neuquen Province, which will require an investment estimated at $150 million, Brazilian financing will guarantee construction of this project. The Brazilian Norberto Odebrecht Enterprise will also participate in the construction of the dam.

Throughout history, Brazilian and Argentine economic relations have experienced ups and downs and as a consequence, they have experienced booms and depressions. Bilateral trade, for example, which amounted to approximately $2 billion in 1980, dropped almost to half that during 1983 but experienced a slight increase last year.

This year, when relations were experiencing one of their frequent periods of depression, the famous apple war was unleashed, during which Argentina threatened to suspend imports of Brazilian bananas and coffee. Since more than 80 percent of the products exported by Argentina come from rural areas, Argentina did not consider it fair for Brazil, which produces apples in such quantities that they are even used to fatten pigs in Santa Catarina, to restrict the quantity of applies it imports from Argentina. Negotiations to make Argentina and Brazilian interests compatible -- the apple war has entered a truck -- still have a long way to go. They are included in a much broader context, which deals with overall trade relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal's first visit abroad was to Argentina to show Brazil's interest in its relations with that country. Despite all the ups and downs, Argentina is Brazil's most important Latin American partner. There is no doubt that an improvement in Brazilian-Argentine economic relations would be highly beneficial for the southern cone and for South America. There are great undertakings being considered, such as Argentina's plan to construct a gas pipeline to Sao Paulo so it can sell the gas it produces directly to Brazilian industries, and its plan to build several hydroelectric dams along the Uruguay river. All of this depends on the improvement of economic relations between the two countries.

MAJOR CHANGES SEEN IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD CHILE

PY292104 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Several international analysts have pointed out that U.S. policy toward Chile has undergone major changes over the last 12 months, and silent diplomacy has come to an end. Under its silent diplomacy, the United States refrained from criticizing, at least publicly, the human rights violations in Chile. Genaro Arriagada, a Christian Democratic Party political observer, has said that Harry Barnes, the new U.S. ambassador who will arrive in a few days, will implement these policy changes. Arriagada stressed that the U.S. policy in Chile has undergone obvious changes over the last 12 months. In his opinion, three of these changes are:

[Begin recording] There have been major changes in the U.S. policy toward Chile over the last 12 months, because the Chilean military government's persistent attitude against a peaceful transition to democracy has worn out U.S. patience. I would say there are three basic changes: First, the replacement of Assistant Secretary of State Motley by Mr Abrams, which I personally regard as a very positive step. Second, the replacement of Ambassador Theberge with Ambassador Barnes. As I see it, there has been a shift from a very conservative ambassador to a professional, whom I expect to be much more cautious in his appreciation of an commitments to the Chilean Government. Third, there has also been a change in diplomatic style. [end recording]

Arriagada attached major significance to the replacement of the assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs. Before being appointed to replace Motley, Abrams performed as secretary of state for human rights. While in this position, he expressed concern over the Chilean human rights record. This change has instigated others, the effects of which we will see in a few days, when the new U.S. ambassador arrives. Arriagada pointed out that Motley did not want Barnes as ambassador.

[Begin recording] I believe Mr Motley wanted another ambassador. At least, this is what I read in the U.S. papers in March. Nevertheless, Mr Barnes has been appointed to replace Theberge. I believe Mr Barnes is an outstanding professional. I also believe that James Theberge came to Chile during the most conservative period of the Reagan administration and that he shared the views of former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick. Consequently, I think he persistently tried to see the positive side of the Pinochet administration. I believe beyond all doubt, the replacement of Theberge by Mr Barnes involves a major change. [end recording]

Arriagada reiterated that the change in the U.S. policy toward Chile was caused by the fact that the Reagan administration is tired of the Chilean regime's refusal to allow a transition to democracy.

ADMIRAL MERINO RETURNS FROM U.S. NAVAL MEETING

PY300048 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino today reiterated that the Soviet Union is carrying out a policy of penetration in the South Pacific. Admiral Merino, a member of the government junta, has returned to Chile after spending more than 20 days in the United States, where he attended the 8th Symposium of Western Navy Commanders. In his speech to 45 navy commanders from different countries who met in the United States, Admiral Merino denounced the efforts of the Soviet Union to infiltrate the Pacific with its powerful navy.

At the naval meeting held in Newport, United States, Admiral Merino said that the Soviet presence is practically universal with the exception of the South Pacific. Merino also discussed the decolonization process in the South Pacific region and pointed out that the development of this process was interesting when compared to that of Africa, especially insofar as political, economic, and social effects go. When asked about the reaction to his speech in the United States, Merino replied that his remarks were very well received. [recorded passage indistinct]

Merino explained that in his speech to the 8th Symposium of Naval Commanders he stated that the Soviets' main goal is to control the South Pacific in order to gain a hold on the southern channels that link the two oceans. Merino added that the Americans have a good opinion of Chile, and they, too, are fighting communism.

INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS BOMBINGS 'INSANE EFFORTS'

PY292044 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Relay from Government House by Rosa Sanchez]

[Text] Chilean Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia stated a short while ago that last night's bombings in Santiago are a sign of the insane efforts of people who are trying to create an atmosphere of violence in the country and to thwart, albeit unsuccessfully, the nation's quest for work and development.

The interior minister made this statement shortly before joining luncheon that the president of the nation is now hosting for 12 high-level personalities. The people in question are: Manuel Tagle Valdes, Jose Luis Cerda Urrutia, Haydee Vallejos, Carlos Cruz (Cuttier), Salvador Correa Larrain, Carlos Vial (Espantoso), Patricio Vildoso (Laforma), Jorge Santibanez Servi, Carlos Errazuriz, Elena Forneri, Gustavo Vicuna, and Jaime Bulnes Sanfuentes. Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra is also attending the luncheon.

PINOCHET LUNCHEON COVERS UNEMPLOYMENT, TERRORISM

PY300040 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Unemployment and the problems that terrorism creates all over the world were the main issues raised at the luncheon that President Pinochet today hosted for 12 special guests. At the end of the luncheon, Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra reported on the topics discussed;

[Begin recording] The president hosted a luncheon for former parliamentarians and representatives of various political parties as well as businessmen. [passage indistinct] Among the most important topics was that of unemployment, because as you know, Santiago has the highest unemployment rate while there are regions, especially agricultural regions, where there are problems getting enough manpower. The president and his guests also discussed at length the problem of terrorism, a scourge that is felt all over the world. Anyone recognizes it. Different governments, irrespective of their political leanings, are having to cope with this scourge that is spreading over the planet. World leaders and our government, too, have proposed clear-cut solutions to this problem. The discovery of the arsenal in Peru last week clearly shows the links between the Shining Path, the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left, and the Popular Democratic Movement. [end recording]

Asked whether these meetings are part of the president's plan to tap the resources of the nation, Minister Cuadra said that the government has been using different approaches to tap different sectors of public opinion.

COURT RULES ON PRISON BREAK ATTEMPT CASE

PY292151 Paris AFP in Spanish 1503 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Santiago, 29 Oct (AFP) -- A military prosecutor in Santiago today dropped charges of subversion against Argentine citizen Juan Carlos Espinoza Armesto, who was arrested by Chilean Secret Police (CNI) agents. An official report singled him out as a participant in an armed attack against a barracks last November during which two Carabineros died.

However, the Argentine will remain in jail awaiting prosecution as the presumed organizer of a frustrated escape by leftist political prisoners from the Santiago Penitentiary, which ended with the death of a policeman and seven inmates.

Espinoza Armesto and a Chilean student and a female teacher were arrested on 15 October, 3 days before the attempted escape. The CNI has reported that the Argentine's house was to serve as the hiding place for the prisoners if they managed to escape.

The information media of the opposition to the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet has noted the confusing circumstances surrounding the case, because the capture of the alleged accomplices in the attempted escape proves that the plan was discovered beforehand.

Several prisoners incriminated in the murder of former Santiago Intendant General Carlos Urzua, in the assassination of former Chief of the Army Intelligence School Colonel Roger Vergara, and in the failed attempt on the life of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Israel Borquez were killed or wounded in the shoot-out that took place inside the Santiago Penitentiary.

DCU REJECTS FECH ELECTORAL ALLIANCE WITH PCCH

PY290030 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Oct 85 pp A 1, A 11

[Excerpt] The Christian Democratic Party [DC] on 11 October decided not to form an alliance with the Communist Party [PC] for the upcoming FECH [Chilean University Student Federation] elections.

This information was given to EL MERCURIO yesterday by Pablo Jaeger, the president of the Christian Democratic University branch (DCU), and by DCU counselor Carlos Saffirio. The decision was reported to the Communists and to other opposition leaders yesterday afternoon following a meeting held at the School of Engineering. The meeting was attended by representatives of several sectors.

Saffirio reported that the Communist Party answer to the conditions the DCU established to agree on a "single" ticket were considered insufficient.

It has been reported that the deadline for the registration of electoral tickets will expire at 2400 today.

The main positions within the FECH Executive Board are now held by Christian Democratic, Socialist, and Communist leaders.

In the elections held in October last year, 13,562 out of 20,000 registered students cast their votes to choose the current FECH Executive Board, which university Rector Roberto Soto Mackenney has not recognized. The board is currently headed by DC leader Yerko Ljubetic. The DCU electoral program is based on the "National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy," which has been endorsed by several political sectors.

In a letter addressed to the DC, Communist leader Gonzalo Rovira, the current FECH vice president, voiced his "support for the measures of immediate implementation proposed in the National Accord and that the entire student movement supports."

Pablo Jaeger said that it is clear that the PC "supports only the measures for immediate implementation and that it is not willing to endorse the full text of the Accord. Therefore, the DC is not willing to appear on a single ticket with the PC." The decision to rule out an electoral alliance with the PC was made known yesterday afternoon after a meeting held by the DC National Council under the chairmanship of DC President Gabriel Valdes Subercaseaux. It has been learned that the PC answer, through which the Communists failed to endorse the complete text of the National Accord, has been regarded as "insufficient."

In recent days, the DC has been the target of criticism because of its electoral alliances with the leftist People's Democratic Movement (MDP), a coalition that includes the PC. Two of the parties that endorsed the National Accord -- the National Union and the National Party -- have strongly scored the DC because of such electoral alliances, in light of what recently happened during the elections held at Concepcion University.

Jaeger and Saffirio have explained that a few days ago the DCU submitted "a proposal to all university political organizations. Thus far, two major political sectors, the PC and the University Front, have responded with a categorically negative answer." Asked whether the students will abide by the party decision, they replied: "We agree on this subject. We have just held a political meeting with all opposition sectors within the University of Chile, and we have taken notice that the PC position is different from ours. Therefore, there has been no agreement with them, and there will not be a single ticket with them either."

Jaeger said that the DCU was to analyze the composition of its ticket last night. "We have to see whether we will run by ourselves or whether we will form a coalition with other sectors," he remarked. He did not rule out the possibility of the DCU forming an alliance with the Social Democratic Movement, which has endorsed the National Accord and which belongs to the Democratic Alliance.

Pablo Jaeger stressed that the DCU will not form a coalition with the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]. As for the Socialist Party, he said the Socialist candidate for the FECH presidency has said his party will uphold the National Accord, "but we do not know whether they want to form an electoral alliance with us."

Saffirio and Jaeger said that they were announcing the decision to sideline the PC from their ticker on behalf of their party, because the decision "has the unanimous support of the DC National Council, the Christian Democratic Youth, and the DCU."

The DC ticket will be headed by Sociology student Humberto Burotto. Student Luis Lizama is another DC ticket member.

PRC PREMIER'S VISIT DEEMED 'ADVANTAGEOUS'

PA291632 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang arrived today in Colombia. This is the first visit by a high-ranking PRC official to our country.

The visit by the premier of the PRC State Council is interesting as Mr Ziyang represents a country of 1 billion inhabitants. The PRC will purchase bananas and coffee. The coffee purchased will not replace tea, but it will allow tourists in that country to try to our coffee.

The PRC will give us technological assistance in fresh-water shrimp breeding and banana plantations in Uraba. Neurologists will be trained in Chinese universities, and a $5-million credit will be processed between the central banks of both nations. Apparently, this visit is very advantageous for us.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTS NEW PEACE COMMISSION

PA290000 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Oct 85 pp 1A, 6B

[Text] The national government yesterday appointed the Peace, Dialogue, and Verification Commission which will be in charge of the work currently assigned to the Peace, Negotiation, and Dialogue and Verification Commissions.

The executive branch's decision, issued through Decree 3030, was adopted because the current Peace, Negotiation, and Dialogue and Verification Commissions have carried out important tasks that must continue.

The new commission will verify strict compliance with the obligations and pledges stated in the agreements signed by these commissions with the various subversive organizations.

The decree states that it is appropriate to hear and analyze the suggestions and proposals which, within the framework of the Constitution and the law, are presented to guarantee public peace and social order.

In addition, it states that the peace process currently underway demands the immediate participation of qualified spokesmen from the various political, economic, and social forces in the country.

The commission is comprised of 20 members and an executive secretary, including Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez and well-known parliamentary members from the two traditional parties, as well as from other groups. The members are as follows:

Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez, Alvaro Villegas Moreno and Miguel Pinedo Vidal, president of the Senate of the Republic and the Chamber of Representatives, respectively; Msgr Jose Luis Serna; German Zea Hernandez, John Agudelo Rios, and Mmes. Margarita Vidal de Puyo and Rocio Velez de Piedrahita, national government representatives; Rafael Rivas Posada, assistant director of the Liberal Party; Jaime Arias Ramirez, secretary general of the Conservative Party; Senator Emilio Urrea, alternate director of New Liberalism; Gerardo Molina, director of the Firmes movement; Gilberto Vieira, secretary general of the Communist Party of Colombia;

Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa, president of the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights; Carlos Ossa, president of the Colombian Farmers' Society [Sociedad de Agricultores de Colombia]; Raimundo Sojo Zambrano, president of the Colombian Cattlemen's Federation [Federacion Colombiana de Ganaderos]; General Gabriel Puyana Garcia, retired, president of the Colombian Association of Retired Military Forces Officers [Asociacion Colombiana de Oficiales de las Fuerzas Militares en Retiro]; Oscar William Calvo, member of the Central Executive Committee of the Marxist-Leninst Communist Party of Colombia; Carlos Efren Agudelo, delegate of the Workers Self-Defense Movement [Autodefensa Obrera]; Braulio Herrera, member of the Patriotic Union National Coordinating Board.

Article 3 of the decree, dated 18 October, states that the commission may include, on a permanent or temporary basis, other party and labor movement spokesmen, public officials, and others people considered necessary for the appropriate fulfillment of their functions.

In addition, the director general of criminal courts will give the commission all necessary support for the adequate fulfillment of its activities and may attend the meetings on a temporary or permanent basis, according to the commission's decision.

Retired doctor and Mayor Alirio Caicedo Gutierrez has been appointed secretary of the commission and peace inspector. The executive secretariat will coordinate among all the lawyers and inspectors appointed by the Attorney General's Office.

The decree also states that, so long as the Peace, Dialogue, and Verification Commission does not decide otherwise, the commissions created for certain departments, intendancies, and commissariat's will continue to operate.

Betancur Praises Commission

PA290150 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Oct 85 pp 1,2

[Text] In a message to John Agudelo Rios, president of the Peace Commission, President Betancur said: "I hope we will begin to realize that without dialogue and pardon society loses its reason for existence, and the law of the jungle prevails."

Betancur referred to the violence that swept the country in the past as a result of all the contradictions and antagonisms of our society. He said: "Colombian blood had to be foolishly shed before we realized that violence is not something that can be tolerated in small doses, so long as it does not affect us directly, and that the state's arrogance cannot produce peace by decree."

Here is the text of President Betancur's note to Agudelo Rios:

With the decree merging the various commissions created within the peace process, a new and undoubtedly positive phase has begun in the strenuous and long endeavor that all Colombians hope will end successfully.

Saturated as we are with bad news -- and accustomed as we are to looking for anything that will confirm our somber forebodings -- we might find it difficult to meditate seriously on all the obstacles we have had to overcome in order to arrive at this new phase of our peace efforts.

However, we must do so, based on what I have repeatedly maintained since the amnesty law was signed: The path we are on is long and strenuous, because it is not only a matter of finding a solution to a problem that has lasted more than 35 years and that developed from the traditional explosion of small sectarian passions into a turmoil that reflects all the contradictions, antagonisms, and drama of our organized society. We must say that all that pain, all the Colombian blood foolishly shed, was necessary in order for us to see ourselves as we are and as we want to be. It was necessary for us to realize that violence is not something that we can tolerate in certain doses, so long it does not affect us directly, and that the state's arrogance alone cannot produce peace by decree. I hope we will begin to realize that without dialogue and pardon, society loses its reason for existence, and the law of the jungle prevails. I know that this is not the future Colombians want for their homeland.

Based on this certainty, when the difficulties and incomprehension become worse, when madness and hatred seem to take over some spirits, we must insist on solutions other than those involving the use of force, and we must insist on finding them. What is happening today with those who form the new National Patriotic Union is an indication of what can be achieved with perseverance, good will, and good faith, so long as all parties act according to the golden rule.

You -- an intelligent, loyal, and courageous champion of peace who will go down in history -- and the distinguished members of the new Peace Commission will head the upcoming dialogues in an appropriate manner, and your fellow countrymen, headed by the president of the Republic himself, will be further indebted to you for your efforts.

FARC VOWS TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE FOR 'DEMOCRACY'

PA282238 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Oct 85 p 7a

[By Gustavo Cuello Diaz]

[Excerpt] Valledupar, 20 Oct -- The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] has announced in this capital that it is prepared to continue to struggle until a true democratic opening is achieved in the country and expressed its total agreement with the establishment of a new national peace commission.

These and other announcements were made in this capital by Emiliano Ramirez, legal representative of the FARC's 19th Front in the Patriotic Union [UP], Cesar Chapter, and Fernando Hidalgo, UP coordinator in this part of tne country.

Hidalgo said the FARC will dissolve the moment there is a true democratic opening. "A true democratic opening in Colombia will occur the moment there is political reform that juridically ends the Liberal-Conservative biparty system. It is not fair that public and leadership posts in this country must necessarily be shared solely and exclusively by the Liberal and Conservative Parties because the Constitution so states."

The UP spokesman demanded the elimination of that respective article from the Constitution so there can be a true democratic opening. "Popular election of mayors must be approved, and the Labor Code must also be amended to guarantee the right of workers to associate, to have freedom of mobility, and to go on strike, and, above all, there must be a radical change in the political customs to which we have been subjected by the bipartisan system over the past 40 years," he said.

Emiliano Ramirez noted the merger of the Dialogue and Verification Commissions in a National Peace Commission. He said that the previous processes did not fail; they were simply too bureaucratized. The guerrilla leader stressed: "The result of the work of those commissions is the La Uribe Agreement and the organization of the UP."

He referred to the economic, social, and political problems of the country and stated: "That is our objective; to achieve a substantial change that would allow the Colombian people to solve the problems they are facing at this time."

Ramirez added that neither the FARC nor the UP is seeking solutions for their members. "We are calling on the government to solve the problems burdening our compatriots. We have the best intentions of achieving the conditions for a true peace, but this will only be achieved with a radical change, to which we are committed."

The two leaders stated during an interview with local reporters that they have not ruled out the possibility of taking power by force of arms. They said: "We are exhausting all legal alternatives to reorient the Colombian state; if we do not accomplish this, we will return to our initial principles."

The UP admitted that it has received support from several groups from Cesar to increase its power for the coming elections. It listed the Communist Party from Cesar, the Federation of Free Workers from Cesar, and the FARC's Jose Prudencio Padilla" 19th Front, which operates in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, as having joined its ranks. "In addition, we are talking with other sectors such as Common Cause and other organizations," it said.

ELN AMBUSHES ARMY PATROL; 4 GUERRILLAS KILLED

PA271855 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Oct 85

[Text] Neiva -- A military patrol of the 9th Military Brigade has been ambushed by a guerilla column of the self-styled Army of National Liberation [ELN] in Santa Maria, Santa Rosa jurisdiction. The soldiers reacted quickly, and after a lengthy battle it was confirmed that four guerrillas were killed and that the rest of the subversives had fled to the area known as the boot of Cauca, on the border between Huila and Cauca Departments.

The four dead subversives had the aliases of Hugo or El Negro, William, [name indistinct], and Danilo. Ammunition, intelligence material, subversive propaganda, and short- and long-range weapons were seized. According to the official reports, the individual known as Hugo led the attack on Santa Rosa in March. The Army troops did not suffer any casualties.

An operation is now underway to find the other members of the guerrilla column.

INDUSTRY MINISTER QUESTIONS AREA INTEGRATION

PY292114 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Oct 85 p 12

[By special correspondent in Salta]

[Excerpts] When asked what is hindering the Latin American regional integration process, Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion stated that "many governments still have not implemented the programs agreed on at the technical level owing to the lack of a political decision, despite the fact that the plans have been duly developed and enough progress has been made from the technical point of view."

The minister went on to point out that "we believe the economic integration process lacks political leadership, someone who will give it force, who will bring together the opinions of the government leaders, so that government officials can identify with a leading opinion on this issue. We are all well aware that lower ranking government officials and technicians, in particular, abide by the guidelines established by the higher political levels of their respective governments.:

In Salta, Argentina, Ugarte Centurion participated in the closing ceremony of the VII Meeting for the Border and Latin American Integration, where the possibility of a meeting of heads of state, or, at least, of economy ministers to closely examine the subject of regional economic integration was once again discussed.

When he was asked about the markets closed to Paraguayan exports, Ugarte Centurion mentioned some examples: "Some markets were opened for our manufactured goods, but they were then closed again. We had the possibility of manufacturing some electronic products, especially certain elements for the transmission of electricity. A factory for this purpose was opened in Villeta, but it has been closed because former markets have closed their doors to our products, despite the fact that they were awarded to us through the Latin American Integration Association."

FRG OFFICIAL SAYS ANTIDRUG OFFICE PLANNED

PY291640 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Oct 85 p 16

[Excerpts] The Paraguayan and FRG Governments will jointly approach the struggle against drug trafficking by opening a special office in our country. This is one of the results of a visit to our country by FRG Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann as part of a tour of Latin America.

In the near future the FRG will establish a special office here to fight drug trafficking with German and Paraguayan experts, who will be trained in the FRG. This was disclosed to the media by Friedrich Zimmermann at the end of his official visit here.

Yesterday afternoon before leaving for Brazil, the third country he will visit during his tour of our region, Zimmermann held a press conference in which he gave an account of his activities in our country, including meetings with President Alfredo Stroessner, Interior Minister Sabino A. Montanaro, Foreign Minister Carlos A. Saldivar, and representatives of the Catholic and evangelical churches. He said that during the meetings, drug trafficking, respect for human rights, and other matters were discussed.

At the beginning of the press conference, the FRG minister said: "The main reason for this visit is to examine the struggle against drug trafficking from where it originates to where it is consumed. This is a very hot issue in the United States and we have learned that the commission chaired by Mrs Reagan has found new routes for the transportation of cocaine from Latin America."

Zimmermann added that the FRG has already posted experts in Lima and Brasilia. He said that "we have reached an agreement here with Minister Sabino A. Montanaro to invite Paraguyan authorities to visit the FRG to see how we struggle against drug trafficking and to discuss the possibility of establihsing an office in Paraguay."

Asked what he had discussed with General Alfredo Stroessner, Zimmermann answered: "Overall subjects related to bilateral relations; the economic situation, and especially the problem of German investors; subjects related to human rights; and, naturally, the problem of drug trafficking. Regarding human rights, I informed the president about the importance of this issue in Germany and I also mentioned specific cases to him."

When it was pointed out that his visit coincided with the release of peasant leader Marcelino Corazon Medina, Zimmermann said: "I have learned about this release, about the Paraguayan Government's decision, but I would rather not comment on this issue." He denied having referred to aspects related to freedom of press and to General Stroessner's visit to the FRG "because the invitation still stands and there was no need to reiterate it."

EL DIARIO SCORES SMUGGLING OF GOODS TO BRAZIL

PY291620 Asuncio EL DIARO in Spanish 28 Oct 85 p 13

[Unattributed editorial entitled: "Clandestine Larder?"]

[Excerpts] It is being rumored that the Brazilians are taking away our wheat and our corn. Something is being rumored about soybeans and the absorption of our cattle and our lumber by our large neighbor and if it is a secret, it is an open one.

It is impossible to imagine the tremendous damage to our economy that this role of clandestine leader which we are all of a sudden playing for Brazil can cause. Something must be done, and soon. Longstanding experience tells us that police measures to stop contraband, either entering Paraguay or leaving Paraguay -- as is the case now -- have never worked.

Human beings have been charged with repressing corruption but they themselves can be corrupted if the size of the "payoff" ["mordisco"], as they say elsewhere, is great enough. Therefore, it is necessary to enforce a "package" of economic measures reducing the profits of contraband, although those measures are not effective when, in the long term, domestic prices are increased and the domestic economy suffers. Nevertheless, only the implementation of economic measures guarantees some effectiveness and it is important that the distinguished academic team of economists devote itself to formulating proposals which, without exaggeration, involve the economic survival of the country.

DAILY DEFENDS ARGENTINE STATE OF SIEGE

PY291355 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Oct 85 p 13

["International commentary" entitled: "A Response to Violence"]

[Text] It all started on 22 October when six military men and as many civilians were arrested. The accusations filed by the government in the courts charged the dozen detainees with "being responsible for having plunged the country into a state of convulsion and with seeking to provoke conspiracy in the Armed Forces."

The government's energetic response to the mounting waves of bombings and attacks of different sizes revealed that something serious was taking place. Therefore, it was not surprising that in a speech on 23 October Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli stated that "the full weight of the law will fall on those who are threatening the Argentines."

The judge did not accept the governmental decision to make arrests. Thus, the governmental response was also rapid and forceful. It decreed a state of siege. Therefore, beginning 25 October a state of siege has been implemented throughout Argentina. According to the official decree, the state of siege will be in force for 60 days.

In the preamble of the decree it is very clearly stated that the government was forced to adopt this measure because "the constituted powers have the unavoidable obligation to bring under control the situation of disturbance and unrest," for which reason it "resorts to the exceptional measure of the state of siege."

The government could not act otherwise considering the developments, which were not just an accumulation of isolated and unrelated facts but, to the contrary, an intertwined and well-supported chain of events, according to reports from several Argentine political circles.

A news report datelined Buenos Aires recently stated that"the explosive devices demonstrated the existence of a coordinated plan and common factors concerning the people involved both in the making of the bombs and their planting," adding that "the wave of attacks that shocked public opinion was characterized by being essentially aimed at military and school buildings as well as at places frequently visited by military personnel."

The government of Raul Alfonsin understood that the only way to cope with this situation was to energetically defend the republican institutions, threatened by this escalation of violence. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that a constitutional government is resorting to a state of siege to defend something the Constitution itself empowers it to do.

One more thing: Quite often, ruling party sources have criticized similar measures implemented in other countries. The point is that when subversion crops up, there is no choice but to use the appropriate mechanisms, regardless of the fact that one of them is called a "state of siege."

U.S. OIL COMPANIES GIVEN INVESTMENT DEADLINE

PA300056 Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Lima, 29 Oct (AFP) -- Wilfredo Huayta, Peruvian Energy and Mines Minister, has announced tonight that the Peruvian Government has given the U.S. Occidental Petroleum and Belco Petroleum Companies a 24-hour deadline to reinvest more than $600 million in new oil explorations in the country. The U.S.-Argentine Oxy-Bridas enterprise also received notice that it has been given a deadline that will expire on Friday. The Peruvian Government demands that the three oil companies reinvest the $626,859,000 to make up for explorations they failed to carry out during the last 4 years. The minister said that a deadline expired last Friday for the three foreign firms to present to the government a reinvestment program, as required by Peruvian petroleum laws.

GOVERNMENT CANCELS FOREIGN AIRLINE LICENSES

PY290310 Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 27 Oct 85

[Text] Lima, 27 Oct (AFP) -- It was officially announced here today that the Peruvian Government has canceled the licenses to fly passengers and cargo on intermediate routes of seven foreign airlines that made stopovers in six Latin America cities flying out of Lima. The supreme resolutions canceling the licenses affect Air France, Lufthansa, Iberia, KLM, Argentine Arilines, Venezuela's VIASA, and Colombia's Avianca.

The French company will no longer be able to fly the Lima-Bogota-Lima route, while Lufthansa has lost the same route plus the Lima-La Paz-Lima route. Iberia has lost the Lima-Guayaquil-Lima and the Lima-Bogota-Lima routes, and KLM will no longer fly the Panama-Lima and Guayaquil-Lima connections. VIASA has ceased to operate the Lima-Bogota-Lima flight, and Argentine Airlines will not cover the Lima-Mexico-Lima route, while Avianca's request for reconsideration to allow it back on the Santiago-Buenos Aires run has been rejected.

According to the resolutions, the cancellation of licenses was prompted by the fact that Peru's air policy establishes that traffic provided for in the third and fourth air freedoms [agreements regarding passenger transport] will be basically taken care of by airlines of the countries involved, that is, Aeroperu and Faucett in the case of Peru.

Minister Comments

PY291431 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Transportation Minister Jose Murgia today noted that the enforcement of Article No 76 of Law No 15720 regarding several airlines that fly routes between South America and Europe does not mean that these airlines will cease to operate in Peru. He noted: It is simply a procedure aimed at adjusting our nation's airline operation policy in Latin America. The transportation minister said that in keeping with the spirit of many international agreements, Law No 15720 includes measures regarding regional traffic and that the government has merely extended this law. He added: We have only suspended intermediate-distance flights but the long-distance traffic between Peru and Europe is still in force.

The [Peruvian State Airlines] director today said that the suspension of operations of several European airline flights on those intermediate routes covered by Aeroperu is a historic decision that is in keeping with the government's coherent civil air policy.

ECONOMY MINISTER DENIES EXCESSIVE DEBT PAYMENTS

PY291525 Lima Televisora in Spanish 0415 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro has refuted recent rumors in political sectors about the foreign debt.

[Begin recording] [Alva Castro] One of the main problems that Third World countries, particularly in Latin America, are confronting is the protectionist policies that have been enforced by industrialized countries so that our products may not enter their markets.

[Reporter] Regarding national issues, what can you tell us about the statement by Legislator Xavier Diaz (Gansedo) who has noted that the government is paying more than 10 percent of its export revenue toward the foreign debt. Is this true?

[Alva Castro] With all due respect to what Senator Diaz (Ganseco) has said, all I can say is that he has jumped to conclusions. What President Alan Garcia and the government have said is that in the next 12 months, that is from August 1985 to August 1986, Peru will not pay more than 10 percent of its revenue derived from exports. Therefore, to state that the government is paying more than 10 percent just 2 months after the administration has taken office is to jump to conclusions. Senator Diaz (Ganseco) should wait until August 1986 and see if the sum of all the foreign debt payments we have made throughout the year exceeds 10 percent. Only then would he be correct. Meanwhile, he should comply with the national commitment that the government and people of Peru have assumed. [end recording]

23 DISMISSED IN POLICE FORCES REORGANIZATION

PA300246 Paris AFP in Spanish 0225 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Lima, 29 Oct (AFP) -- The Peruvian Government has dismissed 10 generals and 13 colonels from the Republican Guard as part of a reorganization of the police forces, it was announced here tonight by Interior Minister Abel Salinas. Three hundred and twenty-seven top-ranking officers have been dismissed from the police forces so far in the new purge, after President Alan Garcia's government decided to reorganize the forces on 19 August. Salinas said that an unspecified number of general officers within the police forces health department will be dismissed next week, to conclude the reorganization process within the next 10 or 15 days.

SHINING PATH LEADER SURRENDERS, MEETS PRESIDENT

PY291414 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Report from Government House by Patricia Bond]

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia Perez this afternoon met with three members of the Communist Party Shining Path [as heard] who had been captured by infantry soldiers on 25 October after a clash. It was reported that the three Shining Path members surrendered and immediately requested a meeting with the president. This meeting was held today at 1700 at the Tupac Amaru Room of Government Palace. Also present at the meeting were members of the peace commission headed by Fernando (Cabieces). It was reported that one of the three Shining Path members is reportedly a national leader of the Communist Party Shining Path and that the center of subversive operations is reportedly an Ayacucho and Hwancavelica Departments. In keeping with orders issued by President Alan Garcia, the Army will grant protection to these Shining Path members.

TERRORISTS KILL 2 PEASANTS, WOUND 2 POLICEMEN

PY281606 Paris AFP in Spanish 1711 GMT 26 Oct 85

[Text] Lima, 25 Oct (AFP) -- The police today reported in Lima that two peasants died and another was wounded during a subversive attack that heavily damaged Patasucre hamlet in Ayacucho, while in Lima two young policemen were seriously wounded in a residential neighborhood by alleged terrorists. It was also reported that the Shining Path has threatened 12 judges who are hearing the cases of people charged with terrorism.

On 24 October, 200 heavily armed terriorists attacked a camp in Patasucre belonging to the peasant patrol, a self-defense group, setting houses on fire, destroying crops, and stealing animals. In the process they killed two peasants and wounded one. Nonetheless, the patrol was able to chase the terrorists away after an unequal fight with stones, sticks and machetes. It is not known if the terrorists suffered any casualties.

In Lima, policemen Samuel Loayza, 21, and Carlos Ramirez, 23, were seriously wounded during a shootout with presumed terrorists in the San Borja suburb of Lima. The attack against these two agents, who were operated on to remove a bullet from the chest of Loayza and one from the back of Ramirez, comes on top of an attack by unidentified individuals who seriously wounded Civil Guardsman Donato Alegria on a street in the port of Callao on Thursday, as a result of which he is still hospitalized.

President of the Supreme Court of Lima, Saul Godo Leon, revealed on 25 October that the 12 Lima judges who exclusively try terrorism cases have been threatened with death. In a report sent to the Interior Ministry, Godo Leon requested protection for the judges, who have been threatened with death in telephone calls and cannot work in peace, and their families have been threatened as well.

These threats are taken more seriously since Miguel Castro, the director of El Fromton Island prison, was murdered. His death was celebrated the same day by the prisoners of Lurigancho, who raised a red flag in their building, penitentiary authorities reported. The INP [National Institute of Planning] last night said in a communique that the prison situation is getting worse due to the rebellious attitude of the terrorist inmates who do not respect the rules within the reorganization process.

A military spokesman reported that an Army patrol had caught give terrorists just as they were planning some attacks on Chacco, in Huanta Province, Ayacucho. One of the rebels was wounded during the brief clash, and the remaining four were taken to the Casto Pampa military garrison.

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN SAN BORJA

PY281350 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Text] The PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] international antidrug unit has captured the members of a drug trafficking ring related to Reinaldo Rodriguez Lopez. The ring possessed highly sophisticated communications equipment and vehicles. The arrest took place in San Borja. Four vehicles and radio equipment capable of using international frequencies and worth several million dollars were seized. According to PIP sources, the detainees have confessed that they are members of the international ring led by Reinaldo Rodriguez Lopez, who is currently at large.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS RELATED TO POLICE INCIDENT

Congress May Be Dissolved

PY291719 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1609 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Montevideo, 29 Oct (EFE) -- After a confrontation with Congress, the Uruguayan executive branch today announced that it is willing to dissolve Congress and call elections within 8 weeks. Interior Minister Carlos Manini Rios, who since last night has been under questioning by the Chamber of Deputies, which is probing his actions, told the congressmen [words indistinct].

Minister's Explanation 'Unsatisfactory'

PY300152 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] In a session of record-breaking length, the Chamber of Deputies has approved a declaration stating that the explanations given by Interior Minister Carlos Manini Rios on the incidents at the Artigas Teachers Institute are unsatisfactory. The president supports the interior minister, who said that he will not resign from his post.

The motion that was approved was presented by the National Party and was supported by 47 legislators of the 89 who attended the session. Executive branch sources have indicated that the attitude of the Chamber of Deputies does not signify a vote of censure against the interior minister. The Chamber of Deputies had rejected a motion from the Colorado Party, presented as a rider on the motion of the Blanco Party, to call elections for a new Congress after the dissolution of the current one.

Student Strike Staged

PY291212 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1346 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 28 Oct (TELAM) -- A general student strike is being staged today throughout Uruguay as a result of the incidents that took place over the weekend between police and students when the latter were dislodged from a teaching institute that had been occupied by the students.

On 25 October, several dozen students occupied the Artigas Teachers Institute to protest the decision by the board of the General Education Council not to recognize the student advisory council. On the afternoon of 26 October a strong police guard blocked the entrance of the institute and on 27 October the police proceeded to dislodge those who were occupying the institute. The almost 100 students who were arrested at the time were released later that day.

CHIARINO DISCUSSES ABUSES, TROOP REDUCTION

PY252258 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0538 GMT 25 Oct 85

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Oct (EFE) -- Defense Minister Juan Vicente Chiarino has said that the case folders with 12 charges involving missing persons and torture during the de facto regime are in the hands of the Supreme Court. The court must decide whether the cases will be heard by a civilian or military court. In the meantime, investigations have come to a standstill and warrants for the arrest of some officers, which were issued by the fifth chamber of the criminal court, remain unfulfilled.

Among these officers is Colonel Jose Nino Gavazzo, who is charged with involvement in several dozen torture cases and in repressive activities in Argentina during the dirty war that began in 1976. At that time, Gavazzo held the rank of major and was the deputy chief of the Defense Ministry intelligence service. Chiarino said the government will abide by the Supreme Court's decision, because the Uruguayan judiciary is a fully autonomous branch of government.

In an interview published by LA MANANA in Montevideo today, the 83-year-old veteran Social Christian politician said that the size of the Armed Forces must conform to the needs and possibilities of the country. We must face reality. Our means are so reduced that our equipment should be actually obsolete, he added. As an example, he said that the Navy has old ships despite the fact that under international treaties signed by Uruguay, the Navy has the obligation to provide help in case of accidents along a 2,000-mile-long zone. Chiarino wondered how anyone could think that we could fulfill such a mission with a fleet of ships that must reduce their speed when they reach 15 knots because they begin to shake. Concerning his ministry, he said it must be understood that is is no longer the war ministry but simply the Ministry of National Defense. He stressed that a small country our size cannot do what world powers or our neighbors are doing.

The minister analyzed the results of his 8 months in the ministry after the 12-year military regime, and said he was satisfied with what has been done. I had to take care of the Defense Ministry which in medical terms could be referred to as the vertebra that was hurting. Therefore, I had to be prudent and act with firmness because I have had to work in the trenches. Chiarino pointed out that in Uruguay there was not a transition from dictatorship to democratic government. Thus, some groups have expected the ministry to serve the military, while others wanted exactly the opposite.

The minister reported that the Uruguayan Army, Navy, and Air Force have 21,500, 4,700, and 3,580 troops, respectively. According to the first budget drawn up by the democratic government, the Army, Navy, and Air Force troops will be reduced by 4,300, 760, and 490 men, respectively, that, by 20, 16, and 14 percent, respectively. Chiarino said that the inherited military structure had more colonels than captains. The Uruguayan Armed Forces have 4 lieutenant generals, 23 generals and rear admirals, 440 colonels and navy captains, 325 lieutenant colonels, 331 majors, and 439 captains and Navy lieutenants.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER TO HEAD MISSION TO PRC

PY290655 Madrid EFE in Spanish 27 Oct 85 1454 GMT

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Oct (EFE) -- Agriculture and Fishing Minister Roberto Vazquez Platero will travel to the PRC in November at the head of a commercial mission. It was announced today that Uruguay will negotiate in that country, with which Uruguay has no diplomatic relations, the sale of primary products, mainly fish, leather, and wool.

Vazquez Platero dismissed the possibility of friction with Taiwan over this high-level contact with Beijing for the purpose of increasing trade. Recently, replying to a newspapter report signed by Deputy Pasquet Iribarne advocating the resumption of relations with the PRC, a Taiwan diplomat who at the time was in Montevideo expressed his irritation at the proposal. The Taiwan press attache has said that if relations between Taiwan and Uruguay are broken, Taipei may withdraw all official and semiofficial cooperation, trade, and investment. Deputy Pasquet Iribarne strongly rejected that statement and said that whether establishing relations with a given state is convenient to the interests of Uruguay is a question that concerns only Uruguayans. The deputy considered unacceptable the interference of a representative of a foreign state in the internal discussion of the question and the threatening announcement that Uruguay would be running some risks if relations with Taiwan were broken.

GOVERNMENT SIGNS TRADE AGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA

PA290010 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 18 Oct 85 p 2-1

[Text] A commercial exchange agreement was signed today by Venezuela and Romania at the conclusion of the fourth meeting of the Venezuelan-Romanian mixed commission. The signing took place during a ceremony at the offices of the Foreign Trade Institute.

The agreement, which is basically aimed at expanding relations between the two countries, was signed by Simon Izaguirre Bustamante, president of the Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute, and Petre Lupu, Romanian ambassador to Venezuela.

This is the second trade agreement we have signed with a socialist country, Izaguirre said. The first agreement was signed with the USSR in March.

With the signing of this agreement, a positive framework for future trade between our country and Romania is being created. In this sense, measures aimed at facilitating export and import contracts will be adopted, Izaguirre explained.

The signing of the agreement creates the appropriate climate to give continuity to our exports of large amounts of steel, such as 500,000 tons per year for the next 5 years, Izaguirre said.

"Also, continuity will be given to the purchase of feritilizers and other Romanian products. We are also planning fairs and exhibits in both countries with permits and tax and other exemptions," Izaguirre said.

DISIP SEIZES 737 KG OF COCAINE, ARRESTS 11

PA242208 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Oct 85

[Report by Martin Pacheco]

[Text] Good afternoon. We are reporting live from the general headquarters of DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services]. It has been definitely established that 737 kg of pure cocaine were seized by DISIP during two raids in Calle Aurora, Punto Fijo, and a parking lot located at KM 7 of the highway between Falcon and Zulia. This is the largest seizure ever by the security organization in its struggle against drug trafficking and the second largest in Latin America; the largest was in Peru.

The important thing about all this is that approximately 11 people were arrested and taken to DISIP headquarters and are now being booked. As soon as DISIP Director Porfirio Valera, who is giving a detailed report to the foreign minister, returns, we will have further details concerning the arrested people. In addition, we report that four Samural station wagons were confiscated and are also being brought to the general headquarters for the appropriate investigations, with the participation of the Judicial Technical Police.

SEPULVEDA ADDRESSES CHICAGO GROUP

FL291930 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1720 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Chicago 29 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico needs to grow at a rate of more than 5 percent per year to create a volume of jobs greater than the increase in its population, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said here today. Speaking to the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations, the Mexican foreign secretary added that the recent earthquakes that hit Mexico City will force the revision of development priorities. Steps that were being taken to reorganize public finances will be strengthened without losing sight of the objectives of reestablishing sustained economic growth and promoting our people's enormous vitality, he said.

Additional efforts will be required, he said, in the fields of labor, productivity, savings, investments, and foreign exchange, and decisions in the area of structural change or reconversion of activities to free resources for basic tasks must be accelerated.

With regard to the foreign debt, Sepulveda Amor said that now that 3 years have passed since the first crisis, we are beginning to realize the real dimensions of the debt problem. We have learned, he said, important lessons on the functioning of the international economic system and the limits and extent of interdependence. He said the debt goes beyond the economic and financial fields and becomes a question that incorporates political and moral aspects of great political importance because it profoundly affects [words indistinct].

He said that for the debtor nations interest rates are the prime factor limiting options for development and growth. He said it is becoming clearer that economic adjustment programs combined with periodic debt restructuring not only do not solve the basic problem but can even complicate it.

The Latin American debt of approximately $370 billion, the Mexican foreign secretary said, is now the factor that most severely limits the reactivation of growth. He noted that in the last 3 years Latin America has paid $70 billion in interest which, in practical terms, translates to spending more than [figure indistinct] percent of the product of its exports on servicing the debt.

Sepulveda said Mexico has made a great effort in the past 3 years to reverse the drastic fall of its gross domestic product, decrease the inflation rate, reduce its deficit, and achieve a favorable balance of trade, if one takes into account the fact that once again Mexican politicians showed their capacity for articulating the consequences of the civil society. [sentence as received]

The Mexican foreign secretary also outlined Mexico's main medium-range objectives for the Chicago businessmen:

1. To achieve stable, growing access to the U.S. market for Mexican products not related to the petroleum industry. Medium-range displacements in the industries of both countries give Mexico the chance to compete in the fields of automotive parts, steel, petrochemicals, textiles, and certain types of electronics.

2. To reestablish the currents of fresh financing by private and official banks.

3. To reactivate and consolidate the flow of direct investment to the priority areas identified in the Mexican development plan.

4. To promote bilateral economic cooperation, especially in the areas of complementary industries, scientific and technologial cooperation, and sectorial agreements of bilateral cooperation.

NEW TREMOR REGISTERS 5.7; 13 INJURED

PA291757 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1715 GMT 20 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 29 Oct (EFE) -- At least 13 persons were injured as a result of the tremor that shook several neighborhoods of Mexico City this morning, the Red Cross has informed EFE. The Seismology Institute indicated that, according to preliminary data, the tremor reached 5.7 on the Richter scale at its epicenter, which has still not been pinpointed.

The tremor was felt at 0905 in various neighborhoods of the eastern and mid-southern part of the Mexican capital. The Red Cross stated that it received reports of a landslide in the streets of Eduardo Molina and near the corner of Norte-1, but it was later confirmed that this was only a case of collective hysteria among the students of the Conalep [National School for Professional Technical Education].

Thirteen youths were slightly injured, bruised, or trampled by their companions who panicked. The building in which the students were studying is a temporary headquarters for the Conalep, whose official installations were toppled by the 19 September earthquake.

Some scenes of panic occurred in neighborhoods such as Roma, Doctores, and Centro, which were the ones most affected by the 19 September tremor that registered 8.1 on the Richter scale with its epicenter opposite the coasts of Mocoacan State.

According to estimates by seismologists of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the apparent epicenter of today's tremor was opposite the coasts of Michoacan. However, there has not been an official report.

The Seismology Institute noted that aftershocks will continue for at least 1 more month, although it considered it improbable that a tremor similar to those of 19 and 20 September will recur.

BRIEFS

6-MONTH TRADE SURPLUS -- Mexico City, 23 Oct (AFP) -- Ramon Barrios, president of the Federation of Customs Brokers, has said that in the first 6 months of 1975 Mexico's balance of trade surplus totaled $3.946 billion. Exports totaled $10.653 billion and imports were $6.707 billion. [Excerpt] Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 23 Oct 85 PA]

GEN NORIEGA: U.S. RELATIONS 'CORDIAL, RESPECTFUL'

PM291330 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 13 Oct 85 pp 8-9

[Interview with Defense Forces Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega by Antonio Cano, in the Panama Canal area; date not given]

[Text] The commander in chief of the Defense Forces, 45-year-old General Manuel Antonio Noriega, has stated in the first interview he has granted since the replacement of former President Nicolas Ardito Barletta that Panama is still in "a period of transition" toward democracy.

In the anteroom of his office, in one of the canal area buildings turned over by the United States following the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, there were two young men concealing their weapons with their jackets, and on the shelves was a collection of frogs made out of all kinds of material. "They are the general's. These three dressed as mariachis I brought back from Mexico," Major Edgardo Lopez, Noreiga's press chief, remarked.

Question: What involvement did the Defense Forces have in this country's recent political crisis?

Answer: We were merely recipients of a coordinated complaint -- recipients of situations and problems which were affecting the structure of relations between the executive power and the legislative power, and the executive power and the majority party. The Defense Forces have a guiding role toward complete democracy. This is a period of transition, and as such the Defense Forces remain framed within the government plans. Hence they are the sounding board for these very problems.

Question: Has this process toward democracy encountered, as it seems, unexpected difficulties?

Answer: We attempted to leap toward full democracy, but that leap was not within the scope of national realities. Following President Barletta's accession, the relations over 17 years with the communities and with the population forced the people, workers, and peasants to knock on the Defense Forces' open doors as they could not find open doors in the ministers' offices.

Question: Is that still happening?

Answer: It is happening right now and will continue so long as the transition process lasts.

Question: Do you believe that the current democratic process could be interrupted under any circumstances?

Answer: We believe that, despite the mistakes and despite the economic difficulties, above all, which polarize the people politically, the word "democracy" is one which we must uphold until the last moment, and we must defend ourselves against anarchic situations and all-or-nothing stances. We are all committed to carrying out what we promised -- elections in 1984 when this period ends.

We want a participatory democracy which will satisfy social demands, an active democracy in which the world "democracy" will not be mere demagogic speculation, a totally realistic democracy which will respect the underprivileged classes' right not to die of hunger.

Question: And did you disagree on this with Barletta?

Answer: No, I never had disagreements with President Barletta. There was never any disagreement. There were ideas expressed by us as an honest contribution to his government, which was what we were able to pick up in contact with the masses.

Question: How did the murder of Hugo Spadafora influence the current crisis?

Answer: The Spadafora affair is totally deplorable. We maintain respect for the authorities which are conducting the investigation and believe that the newspapers must not set themselves up as courts of justice. That is what happened in the case of Kennedy's assassination, and today we still do not know who killed him. I respect the procedure which the authorities have chosen in this case. That is all that I have to say.

Question: What does Torrijosism mean to you?

Answer: Torrijos designed a country. Before 1969 Panama was a banana republic. Under Torrijos, Panama acquired its profile as a nation. These Defense Forces, which were his pupils, have the commitment to continue, in keeping with reality, adjusting Torrijos' ideas to the reality, time, and space in which we live.

Question: And is that commitment being honored?

Answer: The Defense Forces are honoring it.

Question: And the politicians?

Answer: The politicians, when they are in the opposition, operate under the war cry: Down with whoever is on top.

Question: Torrijos' thinking always made relations with the United States difficult. How are those relations now?

Answer: Militarily, relations with the United States are absolutely cordial and respectful. We believe that we have a unity of doctrine which commits us to a common task, which is the defense of the Panama Canal, which must be open and neutral to enable ships flying all the flags of the world to pass through, without becoming a trap for any flag or a target for international neoterrorism.

Question: Do you believe there is U.S. interference in Panamanian internal affairs?

Answer: Well, I would not say that there is interference. I believe that U.S. activities in Panama are determined by that country's political, military, and economic relations with this country.

Question: What is your opinion of U.S. policy in Central America?

Answer: We belong to the sphere whose center of power is the United States. Hence, everything that happens has to do with the United States.

Question: Panama has always been regarded as a key element in drug trafficking: What stance do you hold on this issue?

Answer: We believe that Panama has been a leading nation in the struggle against drug trafficking. We have made considerable international contributions to that struggle -- even to Spain. Spain has caught large and gleaming big fish as a result of Panamanian reports. In fact, traffickers have turned away somewhat from using Panama as a country of transit.

Question: On several occasions your own army has been accused of involvement in drug trafficking.

Answer: Our corps is composed of strong and weak men. At a certain moment, weak minds were penetrated by this activity, and, with the morale and principles which sustain us, we had to decide to punish a unit which had lapsed into this deviation, but the rest of the Defense Forces have maintained a constant struggle against drug trafficking.

ESQUIVEL SAYS COUNTRY HEADED FOR 'SOCIALISM'

PA272119 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Oct 85 p 12 A

[By Franklin Bosquez D'Giovanni]

[Excerpts] First Vice President Roderick Esquivel, a doctor and Liberal Party member, has said that Panama is headed inevitably toward "socialism," because the state has become the biggest employer.

Esquivel's statements were included in a speech yesterday during the opening of the Foreign Debt and Development Workshop for Employers held at the Airport Inn in Tocumen and organized by the Jose Dolores Moscote Foundation.

Esquivel, who is also president of the Liberal Party, indicated that the payment of the debt and the need for development are of common concern to all the peoples of the world, particularly those of Latin America.

The vice president said that the country is headed for an "economic and social straitjacket" because the state has become the biggest employer, which is also the case in other Central American nations, due to the problems caused by the foreign debt.

Esquivel stressed: "If the loans that cause the foreign debt were signed for political reasons, then let's revise the political reasons that today affect the payment of the debt with a strictly bank-oriented viewpoint, as had been planned."

COSTA RICA

MONGE SEES AEROFLOT FLIGHTS AS 'INADVISABLE'

PA291627 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has stated that plans of the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, to land in Costa Rica are inadvisable. In view of reports that Aeroflot has requested permission to land at the Costa Rican airports as part of its Latin American route, the president clearly stated that this is not the right time for that. He [words indistinct] that due to the situation in relations with Nicaragua, it is inadvisable that [words indistinct].

Unofficial reports indicate that the Soviet (?airline) has tried through various means to obtain the necessary permission to land in Costa Rica. Similar efforts were made several months ago with the Civil Aviation General Directorate, but the matter did not go beyond that. Nevertheless, [words indistinct] make a stopover in Managua [words indistinct] Costa Rica and to then continue to Havana.

2 'SUSPICIOUS' IRANIANS ARRESTED AT AIRPORT

PA291608 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] This morning, authorities of the Juan Santamaria airport arrested two Iranians who were found hiding in the LACSA [Costa Rican Airline Company] cargo warehouse. Colonel Sergio Fernandez Castro of the Intelligence and Security Directorate, DIS, said that the two men had entered the country aboard the Aeronica [Nicaraguan Airline] flight from Nicaragua. However, instead of going through immigration procedures, they hid in the LACSA warehouse until an employee discovered them and notified the DIS airport agents.

The two Iranians have told the authorities that they destroyed their identification documents when they were still aboard the plane. The foreigners, who do not speak Spanish and very little English, have bery little money and said they are interested in receiving asylum in Costa Rica. Col Fernandez said that they stated that they are coming from Moscow, Havana, and Managua. [sentence as heard]

DIS Director Fernandez said that the attitude of the two Iranians is very suspicious and that they will remain under arrest until their intentions are clarified. Col Fernandez said that the cooperation of Interpol has been requested in order to establish whether they have some kind of record. The official said that the authorities want to get to the bottom of this very mysterious case.

'NO CHANGE' IN POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA

PA291649 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] The government has issued a communique stating that there has been no change in its policy towards Nicaragua. It reiterated that Costa Rican foreign policy is the responsibility of the president and the foreign minister.

It also stated that some newspapers have been speculating groundlessly about the government's policy towards Nicaragua. It stated that the government's position was established on 2 June 1985. As a result of the Las Crucitas incident in which two civil policemen were killed and nine others wounded, the government announced at that time that bilateral relations would remain frozen until the necessary apologies were given.

Referring to journalists' speculations, the government communique said that the country is hereby informed that no member of the cabinet, minister, or deputy minister, has carried out actions contrary to the policy established by the presidency of the Republic and Foreign Ministry. What is stated here constitutes the sole truth about our relations with the Nicaraguan Government, the communique of the Costa Rican presidency stated.

Although the communique does not state this, it seeks to clarify reports that Sandinist officials have sent a draft of the explanations that Costa Rica is demanding with regard to the Las Crucitas incident.

EL SALVADOR

FMLN REPORTS DOWNING OF AIR FORCE HELICOPTER

PA300154 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0147 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Your attention, please. According to a last-minute report the FMLN has shot down a helicopter of the dictatorship.

Your attention to this last-minute report. It says that today, 29 October, in the afternoon, the FMLN shot down in Cinquera a U.S.-made Hughes 500 helicopter, better known by our people as the little wasp.

We repeat. A Salvadoran Air Force helicopter was shot down this afternoon in Cinquera.

DUARTE KIDNAPPING NEGOTIATORS' NAMES RELEASED

PA270335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2344 GMT 26 Oct 85

[Text] Panama City, 26 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Mario Aguinada Carranza and Salvador Samayoa were the two plenipotentiaries of the FMLN who negotiated in Panama the exchange of Ines Guadalupe Duarte for the imprisoned Salvadoran guerrillas.

A source close to the negotiations between the guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government disclosed today to ACAN-EFE the names of the negotiators who signed the "Pact of Panama" in Panama City that put an end to the kidnapping of the eldest daughter of President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

The Plenipotentiary Aguinada Carranza is a member of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) whose armed wing is the Armed Forces of Liberation (FAL).

The other FMLN negotiator, Mario Samayoa, was Salvadoran education minister in 1979, but he left this post to join the People's Liberation Forces (FPL).

The negotiations, according to the source, were conducted between four persons: Aguinada and Samayoa, for the FMLN, and Culture and Communications Minister Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes and Abraham Rodriquez, first designate to the presidency of El Salvador, for the government.

As mediator-witnesses of the negotiations the Archbishop of El Salvador, Arturo Rivera y Damas, and Father Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University also attended the negotiations.

Also present at some time during the negotiations were Salvadoran Planning Minister Fidel Chavez Mena and Alejandro Duarte, brother of Ines Duarte.

The four negotiators and the two mediators met in Panama early in the afternoon of Sunday, 20 October and did not reach an agreement until the early hours of Tuesday, the 22d.

According to the source that reported this today to ACAN-EFE, the "Panama Pact" stipulated the step-by-step details of how the women and the mayors kidnapped by the guerrillas as well as the guerrillas imprisoned in the Salvadoran jails would be released.

One of the most discussed and studied points was the release of guerrilla commander Nidia Diaz, whose movements from the moment she left the prison until she boarded the plane that would take her out of the country were planned as a true military operation, the source said.

The pact stipulated that the famous guerrilla commander, as well as the other two rebel chiefs, Marcelino Reyes and Santiago de Jesus, would be delivered at the time of their release to a Panamanian Government representative.

The FMLN decided that the Panamanian Government should take charge of the three guerrilla chiefs.

According to the same source giving the information to ACAN-EFE, the FMLN General Command decided that Commander Nidia Diaz and rebel chiefs Marcelino Reyes and Santiago de Jesus should not rejoin the struggle, but leave the country for Cuba.

VENCEREMOS CLAIMS 654 ARMY CASUALTIES IN 15 DAYS

PA282316 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Oct 85

[Text] In previous casts, we reported that we had inflicted 654 casualties in a little more than 15 days during the month of October, but of course, we have now raised that figure with the latest reports. Following our latest military count, in which we reported to the people that we had inflicted more than 650 casualties on the Army during the first 15 days of October, spokesmen from the Armed Forces High Command made revealing statements to various news media. No, the Army spokesmen shouted, they have not inflicted 650 casualties on our troops. They have only caused 300 casualties during the first 15 days of October.

According to war reports which we receive from our guerrilla units all over national territory, a careful tally -- taking into account all mine explosions, rifle attacks, ambushes, and other actions against the puppet Army -- shows 654 casualties in a little over 15 days during the month of October. Nevertheless we will not engage in a figure fight with Coprefa [Press Committee of the Armed Forces]. We will not engage in a necrophilic argument with Coprefa, because out people know how to read the High Command's reports. They know how to read the reports from Coprefa. That is, they admit that in 15 days, they lost the equivalent of an antiterrorist infantry battalion in casualties inflicted during that period. But our people know how to translate Coprefa's declarations and figures. They know that if they admit to 300 casualties in 15 days, the real number is above 600.

35 'SUBVERSIVES' KILLED IN MORAZAN DEPARTMENT

PA242151 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Oct 85 pp 2, 29

[Text] A total of 35 subversives have been killed in clashes with members of Military Detachment No 4 in various parts of Morazan Department.

The report was given by the commander of the detachment, Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, who is conducting routine operations in the area.

The report adds that the troops under his command are moved from one place to another, relieved in order to rest, and then continue with the antiterrorist struggle.

The officer explained to media representatives that these operations are nothing unusual; on the contrary, they are routine operations.

He also explained that all the units of the Armed Forces have the mission to safeguard tranquillity, order, justice, and security of the people.

The operations, searches, and patrols by the troops of the various garrisons throughout the eastern part of the country are done on a permanent basis. We are also told that the 3d Army Brigade troops stationed at San Miguel are patrolling and combing the area for extremist camps.

The belligerent action in the area has been at a minimum. It is believed that this is due to the subversives' withdrawing when they are uncovered or pursued by the Army troops. Similar situations occur in Chalatenango Department where the military units of the area are patrolling and combing the area for extremists. According to the military authorities' reports, 11 terrorists of the FMLN-FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front] have been killed in recent hours.

It is also reported the military are patrolling and combing various other areas. No casualties have been reported. Military troops have visited the residents of the various towns, in order to evaluate the communities' most urgent needs, such as food, medicine, clothing, utensils, medical attention, housing, security, and so forth.

ARMY REPORTS DEATH OF REBEL COMMANDER

PA300409 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Military sources confirmed this morning the death of Commander (Vidal), who operated in the area south of Jiquilisco. According to the reports, the action was carried out by the 1st Marines Battalion.

The military report indicates that Commander (Vidal) was a brother of Commander (Jeronimo). No further details were made available this morning.

FARABUNDO MARTI ON GUERRILLA ACTIONS IN GUATEMALA

PA291333 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 27 Oct 85

[Text] Attention Salvadoran people. The political-military struggle of the heroic Guatemalan people continues. Attention Salvadoran people. Attention Guatemalan and Central American people. Radio Farabundo Marti now presents military information sent to us by our Guatemalan brothers-in-arms. There are new military victories of the Guatemalan people in their struggle against oppression and injustice. Here is a report on the political-military actions that advance uncontrollably toward total victory in our neighboring Guatemala.

A war bulletin from the Commander Xavier Sandriz front states that on 21 October at 1830, a guerrilla unit took political-military control of the El Pacayal farm in [name indistinct] jurisdiction, Chimaltenango Department, where they gathered more than 500 workers and explained to them the reasons for the economic crisis, and why the Army is carrying out the elections. After 2 hours on the farm, the guerrillas withdrew without problem.

On 22 October at 1730, a guerrilla unit took political-military control of the La Felicidad farm in Chimaltenango Department. On that farm more than 100 workers were gathered and told the reasons why the Army is carrying out the elections. After 2 hours the guerrilla unit withdrew in an orderly manner.

A guerrilla unit detected the approach of an enemy company that advanced toward a guerrilla camp in the mountains of San Marcos municipality in the place known as (Yerba Mora), near Palo Blanco Canton. At 0900, this enemy unit was ambushed with fire from [word indistinct] inflicted eight casualties on the enemy troops. One hour later the enemy spread out and continued to advance, opening their way with machinegun, rifle, and grenade launcher fire. At 1130, another rebel unit opened fire with rifles, this time our unit waited on the enemy's advance, inflicting four verified casualties on them. Later, in another position, another guerrilla unit waited for the enemy to continue its advance. In response to the guerrilla fighters, the enemy was forced to withdraw without occupying the guerrilla positions.

On the same day, in a direction parallel to the place of the clashes, another Army company that was trying to cut off the guerrilla units' escape route, fell into an ambush at 1350 in one of our positions, suffering one casualty. A 15-minute clash ensued. Later, the guerrillas withdrew, leaving the position and therefore allowing the enemy to occupy it. Ten minutes later, another guerrilla unit which was some 50 meters away from the former line, carried out another attack on the enemy troops with concentrated fire, inflicting two more casualties on the enemy. In response to the rebels, the enemy suspended their advance. Later on, the guerrilla units withdrew without problems.

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLAS DEMANDING PAYMENT OF 'WAR TAX'

PA282156 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Oct 85 p 3

[By correspondents in southern and western Guatemala]

[Text] Guatemala, 25 Oct -- The guerrilla forces have noticeably increased their activities in western and southern Guatemala, within the framework of a campaign to "ideologize" and convince the residents not to cast their votes in the elections, which they describe as a "farce."

In San Marcos, it was reported that one soldier, Saul Perez, was killed during a clash with a guerrilla cell apparently belonging to the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA) in the area known as "Barranca de Galvez."

Five more soldiers were wounded during that clash. One of them is in critical condition, and was flown into Guatemala City and taken to the military hospital.

Rebel movements were also reported in northern Patulul, Suchitepequez and southern Solola. The guerrillas have also staged quick actions along the highway from the capital city to the departments in the west. The leftists intercepted several buses, demanded that the passengers pay a "war tax," and asked them not to vote on 3 November, our correspondents learned from talking with several passengers.

EL PETEN UNDER MILITARY CONTROL FOLLOWING CLASHES

PA282027 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Text] General Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, deputy chief of state and chief of the Army General Staff, has announced that the area of El Peten, where there have been armed clashes with subversive criminals, is under military control. Gen Lobos Zamora pointed out that he toured El Peten Department last week and was able to determine that the subversives have separated into small groups with the aim of attacking residents by surprise. However, he emphasized that the situation is under military control.

He added that the Army will maintain security during the elections to be held on 3 November. When asked about the Army's cooperation in guiding the citizens during the elections, Gen Lobos Zamora said the Army will not do that because this exclusively concerns the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, while the Army has other tasks.

FAR Occupies Radio Station

PA282126 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Oct 85 pp 2, 31

[Text] The Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) guerrillas occupied a Guatemalan Government radio communications station on the banks of Usumcinta River, El Peten Department, north of Guatemala City on 24 October, according to a CERIGUA [Guatemalan External News Center] official telex distributed to the press.

The rebels reported that units of the "Lucio Ramirez Front" occupied the radio station installations located on the Guatemalan-Mexican border, where they destroyed radio communications equipment and seized a motor boat.

The communique adds that on 22 October the units of the same front controlled the stretch of the highway in Subin for several hours where they set up a barricade and halted traffic.

During both operations, the guerrillas distributed propaganda to the population and explained to them the electoral maneuver of General Oscar Mejia Victores.

The FAR, the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, and the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms form part of the URNG.

The communique does not mention the Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT) which used to form part of the URNG.

HONDURAS

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS INVITED TO ELECTIONS

PA282323 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica met with the members of the Electoral Tribunal to coordinate plans to facilitate the presence of international observers during the 24 November elections.

According to the foreign minister, the government is interested in inviting more than 1,000 observers from friendly countries, to prove to the world the purity of the elections to designate new authorities.

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] We have already sent some invitations, for instance to the Contadora Group, friendly countries, parliamentarians, and others. The Foreign Ministry feels that more than 1,000 observers should be invited, but I recall that during the 1981 elections won by President Suazo Cordova through the free exercise of the right to vote, as it should be, the Electoral Tribunal took this initiative, and we have come to coordinate with them so that they can fulfill their duties in this political effort, which is beneficial to the strengthening of democracy.

[Reporter] Does this mean that you have already spoken to the diplomatic corps accredited in this country?

[Paz Barnica] We are sending messages through them and through our ambassadors to invite hundreds of observers.

[Reporter] Paz Barnica, regarding the matter discussed yesterday at the National Congress, has the problem that emerged there in any way damaged Honduras' international image?

[Paz Barnica] I would imagine that in many countries, through international dispatches, there must have been a certain amount of apprehension and anguish to see that in a country like Honduras, which is working toward democracy, such a shameful incident should have taken place, an incident which is a disgrace for the country. Fortunately, the problem was overcome; President Suazo Cordova always maintained his firm and unwavering attitude of not one day more or one day less in the presidency, and free elections on 24 November, with the full support of the Armed Forces. I stated this, and the Security Council also stated it. Should we have rain, thunder, or lightning, there will be elections on 24 November. Suazo Cordova wants a democratic situation, and the Armed Forces also. This was reiterated yesterday at the Security Council, and on 21 October -- Armed Forces Day -- President Suazo also ratified it in a message to the Honduran people. Therefore, I believe that the truth of the situation is that when the problem that emerged last night at the legislative chamber has been overcome, there will be the assurance that the democratic system is being strengthened in Honduras. I believe that this negative and shameful incident will contribute to the strengthening of democracy. [end recording]

SECRETARIAT ON PROTEST NOTE TO NICARAGUA

PA281558 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1610 GMT 25 Oct 85

[Press release issued by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat's Office of Public Relations in Tegucigalpa in October 1985]

[Text] The Honduran Government, through the Foreign Secretariat, protested again before the Nicaraguan Government last Wednesday over the constant activities of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], which carried out four new attacks against Honduras between 18-20 October.

The energetic protest sent by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco details the following developments:

1. At 0900 Friday, 18 October, a Honduran patrol on border control duties in San Benito, Concepcion de Maria municipality, Choluteca Department, received hostile fire by EPS troops, who fired from Nicaraguan territory.

2. On that same day at 1500, an undetermined number of EPS troops made an incursion in the region of El Tablazo, Trojes municipality, El Paraiso Department, and similar actions were repeated at 0600 Saturday, 19 October.

3. At 0400 Sunday, 20 October, a Honduran patrol was attacked by EPS troops in La Guaruma, Concepcion de Maria municipality, Choluteca Department.

Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica stresses in his energetic protest to the Nicaraguan Government that provocations and aggressions by the EPS against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Honduras are no longer sporadic, but are committed daily. Perhaps the Nicaraguan Government wants to test the patience of the people and Government of Honduras, or perhaps it wants to justify with these provocative maneuvers the recent restriction of the fundamental liberties of its own people, which elicited the unanimous condemnation of the international community.

My government, the Honduran foreign secretary states, urges the Nicaraguan Government to cease these aggressions and truly support the negotiations promoted by the Contadora Group to secure peace in the region.

NICARAGUA

ARDE WARNS COSTA RICA OF EPS 'FALSE RETREAT'

PA300232 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0151 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] San Jose, 29 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance of Nicaragua, ARDE, which is the faction loyal to Eden Pastora, today warned the Costa Rican Authorities of a trap the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, is preparing.

ARDE's command reported that several hundred EPS soldiers burned and left their positions in La Penca and Sarapiqui along the San Juan River and retreated 3 km into Nicaraguan territory. In this way, the report says, they are trying to deceive the Costa Ricans with a "false retreat," so they can return later and massacre without any risk civilians and policemen, who will trustingly go near the border.

In relation to this, at noon today, the rebel Voz de Sandino, ARDE's radio station, warned the Costa Rican authorities about "the trap into which they could fall." According to the radio station, this information was obtained from members of the people's militias, who recently joined Pastora's column and knew about the Sandinists' "criminal plans."

The radio station says that this is a desperate action carried out by the government of Managua, in view of the fact that it cannot sustain the bases it seized from Commander Cero [Eden Pastora] in May and June this year. The rebels reported that they recovered most of the Nicaraguan border region, except the posts in La Penca, Sarapiqui, El Delta and Machuca, which are under constant attacks by the rebels. Meanwhile, the Costa Rica authorities neither confirmed nor denied the report because they do not know what is happening on the other side of the border.

PASTORA COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH UNO-FARN

PA282339 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 19 Oct 85 p 4

[Text] "I could be an ally of the United States, but never its vassal. In this regard, Mr Calero was right when he said 'we do not have to consult with him on anything,' because when it comes to handing over Nicaragua's sovereignty, and the fate of its people, my reply is known beforehand," Eden Pastora, Commander Cero, said when asked about a news report from Washington on a meeting held by Arturo Cruz, Adolfo Calero, and Alonso Robelo in the U.S. capital, to announce an understanding, under new conditions, between their group, UNO [Nicaraguan Opposition Unity] and the U.S. Administration. (LA REPUBLICA of yesterday, p. 11).

"The U.S. Government had to bribe members of UNO into adhering to principles that we members of ARDE have been killing and dying for in southern Nicaragua, for over 2 years, abandoned by the democratic world and persecuted by certain blinded sectors of the United States," Pastora added in a radio-telephone conversation with one of our writers late yesterday.

Commenting on the news dispatch, Commander Cero said: "The reorganization of UNO, promoted by the Reagan administration, originated because of the concern over the 'financial handling, respect for human rights, and the presence of numerous followers of former dictator Anastasio Somoza in the rebel leaders' ranks.' To carry out these objectives, all the UNO directors had to do was to come to ARDE, which has been fighting for those same principles, and they had no need to accept the appointment of a foreign interventionist called an inspector, imposed by the U.S. Government. We do not need comptrollers or pay to honestly handle finances, to respect human rights, or to understand that the presence of a Somozist military leadership at the head of those who will have the weapons in their hands in the event of a victory against the communism of the FSLN Directorate represents a step backwards. This has been our unwavering position since the very first moment, and to sustain it, lacking economic aid, we have had more than enough patriotism and democartic conviction."

"One day history will recognize that ARDE did not accept an unconditional liaison with the north specifically because that would mean joining in the disrespect for human rights, and a certain return to a Somozist past, which we repudiate with the same force that we do the Marxist dictatorship imposed by the nine traitorous commanders."

"The world has heard me say many times that I will not join those who do not turn over prisoners, while ARDE, without resources and in the poorhouse, has handed over more than 500. I have done so out of respect for human rights. You have also heard me say that I cannot and will not seek a return to the past. Now Arturo Cruz is very worried 'because of the inconsiderate treatment given to the civilian population by the troops, who are mostly soldiers and former Somozist officers,' according to the dispatch. This treatment which Don Arturo is complaining is a Somozist practice, whose return to Nicaragua we must avoid, because that is why we fought against the military dictatorship of the Somoza dynasty."

"Because of the stance that has now been adopted by Messrs Cruz, Calero, and Robelo, I have been called obstinate, self-centered, and an enemy of unity. The fact is that I have held this position unwaveringly from the outset, by democratic conviction and for patriotic reasons.

"They are accepting and adopting it now because it has been imposed on them. I have called for unity with respect to principles that include, of course, respect for human rights, no return to the past, clear financial management, a guaranteed democratic, pluralistic, and free enterprise government, and adherence to the original political plan endorsed by the OAS that united us against Somoza. They are united, as they stated in Washington and as is stated in the dispatch, 'because unity facilitates the securing of resources.' For me, unity is valuable, advisable, and desirable to free the Nicaraguan people, to allow them to seek their own destiny without foreign intervention, and to offer them a democratic life like that in Costa Rica. Because of that difference, I do not receive aid and I am persecuted."

Commander Cero concluded his comments with a warning: "The announcement that UNO-FARN [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua] forces will fight along the Costa Rican border, where ARDE's rear guard is active, means nothing else but that a confrontation will be provoked between those forces and mine. As far as I can, I will try to avoid that confrontation, because the enemy is in Managua, represented by the communist dictatorship of the National Directorate. However, if a clash does occur, I want you to know that it will be a new formula to annihilate me. They won't succeed."

DEMILITARIZED ZONE IN CENTRAL AMERICA PROPOSED

PA300204 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Nicaragua proposed today at the UN that Central America become a completely neutral and demilitarized zone, pointing out that regional disarmament may represent an important contribution to world disarmament. In a speech to the General Assembly Disarmament Commission, Julio Icaza Dayard, alternate Nicaraguan representative, asserted that demilitarization in Central America is impossible as long as the United States persists in its militarization policy for Central America in armed aggression against Nicaragua. He said that Nicaragua advocates a complete ban on military maneuvers, the deployment or transit of foreign troops through Central American territory, the departure of all the foreign advisers and military personnel, and the establishment of a reasonable balance of forces, aimed at achieving a substantial reduction of weapons and an eventual demilitarization of the area. Icaza stated Nicaragua's position on the most important aspects of the international debate on nuclear and conventional weapons disarmament, pointing out that the Third World and the nonaligned countries must play an important role concerning these matters.

Referring to the upcoming summit meeting between the U.S. and Soviet presidents, Icaza said his country hopes this will be a constructive effort aimed at paving the way for international detente. He underscored that it is impossible to achieve disarmament without security and, within this framework, he talked about the need to respect the principles and norms which must prevail in relations between the states, as stated in the UN Charter.

DEFENSE MINISTRY RELEASES NEW APPOINTMENTS

PA281818 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1249 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Text] Within the framework to strengthen the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], the Defense Ministry hereby announces the following appointments:

1. Brigade Commander Leopoldo Rivas Alfaro, deputy minister of defense;

2. Brigade Commander Francisco Rivera Quintero, chief of the Organization of the Political Jurisdiction Area Directorate;
3. Commander Javier Carrion McDonough, second chief of the General Staff and chief of the Operations Group of the General Staff;
4. Commander Antenor Rosales Bolanos, chief of the First Military Region;
5. Commander Javier Pichardo Ramirez, chief of the Second Military Region;
6. Brigade Commander Julio Ramos Arguello, chief of the Third Military Region;
7. Commander Richard Lugo Kautz, second chief of the Third Military Region;
8. Commander Jose Valdivia Hidalgo, chief of the Fourth Military Region;
9. Commander Roberto Calderon Meza, chief of the Fifth Military Region;
10. Commander Manuel Salvatierra Rivera, chief of the Sixth Military Region;
11. Subcommander Ramon Ernesto Sosa, chief of the Seventh Military Region;
12. Subcommander Manuel Rivas Guatemala, chief of the Sandinist War Navy;
13. Captain Ricardo Wheelock Roman, chief of the Military Intelligence Directorate.

[Dated] Managua, October 1985, Public Relations Office of the Defense Ministry

DEFENSE TERMED PRIORITY IN 'SURVIVAL ECONOMY'

PA291423 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] The war economy is primarily affecting rural areas, the state bureaucracy, and professional and technical sectors, Nicaraguan economic sources have reported. The Planning and Budget Secretariat of the Nicaraguan Presidency told Extra newscasts that the survival economy will impose a freeze on government hiring and will affect a sector that is not recorded statistically [words indistinct] crime. However, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry is advancing a wide-ranging and permanent operation to combat crime, prostitution, and drugs, which includes the rehabilitation of drug addicts to reincorporate them in the country's productive efforts.

The source explained that industrial output is currently restricted by a shortage of foreign exchange to import raw materials, spare parts, and accessories, and that therefore, the manufacturing industry is working at less than 50 percent of its productive capacity. During the duration of the survival economy a minimum of resources will be distributed in the cities, while more than 50 percent of the existing resources will be channeled to the defense of Nicaragua's sovereignty, which is currently our foremost concern, the sources pointed out.

CARRION OUTLINES PLAN TO DEFEND MANAGUA

PA280406 San Jose LA NACION (NICARAGUA HOY supplement) in Spanish 19 Oct 85

[Text] Nicaraguan Commander Luis Carrion Cruz has said that, according to the plans outlined by the "National Directorate" (DN) and the General Staff of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), "the invaders will have to face a completely devastated city if the struggle turns against the Sandinists."

Carrion's speech was recorded during the plenary meeting of the FSLN Regional Assembly, Region 3. The National Directorate member unveiled the plans to defend Managua in case of an invasion, because the capital is a symbol of the revolution's political power, a symbol of the people's power, and the seat of the revolutionary powers. Here follow excerpts of Carrion's speech:

Carrion added: "Logically, the fall of Managua would be a terrible blow to us Sandinists, although we may pull back to other areas of the country. The fall of the capital would give them [the contras] worldwide prestige, with everything that entails. The invaders are seeking to capture Managua and to portray that as a major victory."

According to Carrion, the defense of Managua entails recruiting 40,000 militiamen from the civilian population between the ages of 16 and 40, including women from the "Patriotic Military Service" (SMP), as well as having depots for ammunitions, weapons, and other war elements in different areas of the capital at predetermined sites.

Carrion stated: "The defense of Managua will mobilize the nonfighting population, no matter what the cost, to support the fighters wherever needed; that is, feeding them, building barricades, destroying power lines, garrisons, and government offices, controlling the opposition, surveillance, and so on."

The National Directorate member added: "The plans include taking all the political prisoners with us to blackmail the invaders; in addition, oppositionists on a list are to be arrested the minute "an invader" gets near Managua, and mobs will be sent against their relatives and their homes to take them hostage."

This is an excerpt of Carrion Cruz' speech: "Every able-bodied Managua resident must be registered and integrated in a combat unit. The complete militia units that will be created in a short time will not be temporary, but rather will be permanently set up with their chain of commands, squadron chiefs, platoons, and companies, and with battalions with general staffs, brigades, and communications."

NICARAGUA HOY Note

According to a confidential report from a relative of the Ortega brothers, the nine FSLN commanders are in fact planning to defend Managua in this fashion, with the idea of prolonging the conflict and protecting their escape. However, before that, they will try to regain control of the capital.

Our source added: "If their plans fail, they will leave the country from secret airports where there are turboprop planes ready for an escape to predetermined places.

Cuba is one of those places. There the commanders own factories to process meat, cookies, coffee, soap, and so on.

DRAFT OFFICER COMMENTS ON RESERVES ASSIGNMENT

PA291902 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Not all those who register for the Reserve Military Service will be assigned to the reserve battalions, Captain Daniel Pozo, chief of the Patriotic Military Service in the 3d Military Region, has indicated. There will be selection criteria and early selection processes to summon part of the reservists to 2-week military training sessions, after which they will remain as members of battalions in the cities, the military source said.

Capt Pozo said that all lawful measures will be applied against all those who fail to register or show up for their physicals. Likewise, all those who sign up for the Reserve Military Service must carry with them their draft registration card and present it upon request by the authorities. Concluding, Capt Pozo said that those Nicaraguans who are mobilized for military training will continue to receive their salaries by virtue of agreements to that effect reached with state and private concerns.

GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS RADIO CATOLICA BROADCASTS

PA300210 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Managua, 29 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist government has suspended the broadcasts of Radio Catolica de Nicaragua for 2 days, for violating the general law for social communications media, it was reported today by a source in the radio station.

The notice of this government order was presented to Monsignor Bismarck Carballo, director of the church's radio station, at 1810 tonight, the source added.

As a result of this suspension, Radio Catolica was off the air tonight for several minutes, following the government's official notice in writing.

COMMUNIST PARTY, OTHERS HIT STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA291726 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Tomorrow, the National Assembly will discuss the state of national emergency as well as the viewpoints of the country's political parties on this measure that was adopted by the revolutionary government.

On Friday, 25 October, at the assembly's special constitutional commission meeting to debate the work schedule and the open meetings to discuss the constitution, the Communist Party of Nicaragua -- with the support of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party and the Independent Liberal Party -- said that the state of emergency does not permit a discussion of the political constitution.

The president of the National Assembly, Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, informed the representatives of those three parties that the meeting they were attending was to decide on the work involved in drafting the constitution. He added that discussions on the state of emergency could be carried out at a plenary meeting of the National Assembly. The revolutionary leader said that some representatives of opposition parties are trying to blackmail the revolution by threatening to withdraw from the legislative body. He characterized this as not very political and irresponsible, considering the huge task ahead of drafting the country's political consitution which is an effort that will not be affected by the state of emergency.

MINISTER D'ESCOTO LINKS CHRISTIANITY, REVOLUTION

PA291527 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] A Christian nation cannot remain aloof to the declaration of war by a powerful nation: The gospel says that it must defend itself. This was said by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto to Christian delegations from eight Central American and Caribbean countries which are meeting in Managua.

In declaring the Second Regional Meeting for Peace and Life open, Father D'Escoto stated that revolutionary movements are forged in the hearts of men who understand the scriptures. He recalled that [FSLN founder] Carlos Fonseca had priestly aspirations and that President Daniel Ortega was a devout Christian at the time he joined the struggle at the age of 14. Like our revolutionaries, many men throughout the world begin as committed Christians and then join revolutionary struggles, not because they reject Christ, but because the church turn its back on oppressed peoples. Here is part of Minister D'Escoto address to the international Christian delegations that are meeting at Managua's Antonio Valdivieso Christian Center:

[Begin D'Escoto recording] They come to realize that in the long run it is important not only that one struggles, but how one struggles. And every true revolutionary, every true revolution, must be deeply committed not only to achieving its goal, but to its method of struggle. This means that conscientious revolutionaries must question everything they have inherited, all that is traditional. Then they must evaluate it is terms of man and of whether it helps advance the cause or not.

We have also observed that revolutionaries are also committed to the struggle for peace. [end recording]

COSTA RICAN POSITION ON RELATIONS VIEWED

PA281929 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 38 Oct 85

[By Israel Catavi Delvalle]

[Text] A few minutes ago Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto declared that the Costa Rican position concerning the change intended in relations between Nicaragua and that country are the result of a popular consultation among the Costa Rican people. D'Escoto also said that at the international level there is currently concern over the change in relations between the two countries. Returning to the position of the Costa Rican Government regarding the possibility of renewing or improving international relations, the foreign minister considered Costa Rica's position to be most positive.

Monge 'Negative' on Ties

PA291646 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] San Jose -- The Costa Rican Government of President Luis Alberto Monge is working to prevent every possibility for detente and harmony in Central America in spite of the pacification efforts of the Contadora Group, according to what can be gathered from the negative attitude of the Monge administration toward the idea of normalizing relations with Nicaragua. In spite of efforts by Costa Rican popular and democratic sectors in favor of normalizing relations with Nicaragua, President Monge has issued a communique noting that such relations will remain frozen.

The Costa Rican Government, in spite of the fact that an OAS commission cleared up the case of two Civil Guards who died in July in Las Crucitas and the explanations provided by the Nicaraguan Government, is now demanding satisfactory explanations, thus serving the interests of the U.S. policy for Central America which calls for keeping the situation in the region tense.

EMBASSY REPORTS ON HONDURAS BORDER SITUATION

PA272240 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1850 GMT 27 Oct 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaragua's Embassy in Honduras has denounced the presence of some 2,500 "counterrevolutionary" commandos along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

The diplomatic mission sent a report to the news media stating that there are "1,200 counterrevolutionary forces stationed in the Las Vegas camp, 800 in the Arenales camp, 300 in the Quebrades de Oro camp, and 200 in the Las Mieles camp."

All the area mentioned in the Nicaraguan Embassy report are located in the border Department of El Paraiso, in Honduras.

The report also recalled that since 2 October, "we have urged the Honduran authorities to accept the creation of a commission made up by the Contadora Group to investigate the situation at the border zones mentioned, for the sake of the higher interests of peace."

"The Nicaraguan Government," the report added, "notes with concern that, despite the time that has elapsed, not only has the Nicaraguan request gone unanswered, but also that the counterrevolutionary forces still remain in Honduran territory."

The report by the Nicaraguan Embassy also stated that "coincidentally, there is a force comprising three battalions and two companies of the Honduran Army in that zone."

According to the embassy, the concentration of troops "seems to constitute the preparatory stages for a clash between Honduras and Nicaragua."

The report added: "Nicaragua urges the Honduran Government to allow a commission made up by the Contadora Group (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama) to investigate this situation to prevent these preparatory actions from materializing."

The Nicaraguan Embassy in Honduras stated that these preparatory actions "could lead us to situations that our peoples do not want at all and that only favor U.S. Government plans."

RAMIREZ INTERVIEWED ON TRIP TO BRAZIL

PA291549 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] We have a report from Brazil. Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado will arrive in Brasilia tomorrow to meet with President Jose Sarney. Ramirez Mercado will be in Brazil 2 days to brief its leaders on Nicaragua's current situation. Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera and Raul Guerra, Nicaraguan ambassador in Brasilia, complete the Nicaraguan delegation, the Nicaraguan Embassy in Brazil reported.

On Wednesday, Ramirez Mercado will go to Rio de Janeiro, and on Thursday he will leave for Argentina, Uruguay, and Peru, members of Contadora's support group. Here is Vice President Ramirez Mercado in an exclusive statement to Voz de Nicaragua issued moments before boarding the plane:

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] This tour is linked to the previous ones I have conducted over the past several weeks to the countries that are members of the Contadora Group and its support group. In Brazil we will meet with President Jose Sarney, whom we will brief on Nicaragua's views relative to the Contadora peace process,

on the results of President Ortega's visit to the United Nations, and on all the actions that are pending to achieve an overall understanding in Central America.

[Unidentified reporter] Who else will you meet with in addition to the president of Brazil?

[Ramirez] With Foreign Minister Setubal and the president of the Brazilian Congress, Mr Guimaraes.

[Reporter] are there any specific issues Nicaragua will bring up?

[Ramirez] We are naturally interested in strengthening Nicaragua's relations with Brazil. The level of relations is good, but we want our political, diplomatic, and economic relations to be closer.

[Reporter] will you only visit Brazil, or other countries as well?

[Ramirez] Mainly Brazil.

[Reporter] How long will your visit there be?

[Ramirez] I will meet with President Sarney on Tuesday. The other meetings will take place on Wednesday, and I will conclude the visit on Thursday. [end recording]

Begins Visit

PA291335 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado arrived in Brasilia this afternoon to meet with President Jose Sarney and Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal. With his 2-day visit to Brazil the Nicaraguan vice president completes a series of meetings with the leaders of the Contadora support group countries which he began several weeks ago.

In addition to his meetings with Brazil's leading officials, Ramirez Merca will exchange views with leaders of political parties, industries, and banks in an attempt to obtain aid for Nicaragua, burdened by U.S. imperialism's political, military, and economic aggression. Nicaragua has stated that the serious situation Central America is experiencing is a result of the U.S. interventionist policy, and is asking greater support for the Contadora Group peace efforts as the only option to prevent a military confrontation that will jeopardize the security of Nicaragua and Central America.

CEMA TO DISCUSS FSLN COOPERATION PROJECTS

PA250434 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1832 GMT 23 Oct 85

[By Denis Salinas]

[Text] Managua, 23 Oct (ASCAN-EFE) -- CEMA, comprised of the socialist countries, opened a working session in Managua today to discuss ways of cooperating with Nicaragua.

The 36 representatives of the 10 CEMA member-nations "will complete cooperation mechanisms of an extensive technological package," Minister of External Cooperation Henry Ruiz said.

Commander Henry Ruiz said that the presence of the CEMA delegation in Nicaragua "is in itself an expression of the socialist community's clear solidarity with the Nicaraguan struggle." CEMA delegates, technicians, and government officials will study

geological, agricultural, and energy projects of the Sandinist regime for 2 days.

Bayardo Arce, deputy coordinator of the FSLN Executive Committee, said in a news conference today that CEMA experts and Sandinist officials are studying an $800-million investment in a textile industry project in Managua. Likewise, the participants in the conclave are also studying a plan for the overall development of the Sebaco Valley located 190 km from the capital, where an industrial plant to process 50,000 metric tons of vegetables will be established.

Another important government project introduced in the past meeting in Warsaw in September 1984 involves irrigation of 36,000 hectares with water from Xolotlan Lake to grow cotton. The cooperation agreement between Nicaragua and CEMA was established in September 1983.

Trade between Nicaragua and the CEMA countries increased to 16.4 percent of Nicaragua's total trade in 1984. CEMA is providing technical and scientific assistance to the Sandinist regime, and it has offered scholarships to 1600 Nicaraguan students who are studying technical subjects in the various socialist countries of the organization. The countries participating in this meeting are Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Cuba, Poland, and the USSR.

Commander Ruiz Comments

PA251918 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Oct 85

[Text] Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz inaugurated the second session of the joint commission formed by Nicaragua and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. At the event, Commander Henry Ruiz addressed the delegates from Czechoslovakia, Poland, GDR, Bulgaria, Hungary, USSR, Mongolia, and Cuba who form the CEMA-Nicaragua joint commission.

According to Commander Ruiz, Nicaragua has many economic problems caused by the U.S. aggression, which are worsened by the effects of the general crisis caused by capitalism. As a result, the country's revolutionary directorate is trying to overcome this situation which it has described as a phase of survival.

[Begin Ruiz recording] Ours is a war economy within the framework of national resistance against the foreign aggressor. This implies that all of our scarce human and material resources will have to be rationed as efficiently as possible when we restructure the material bases and the social conditions that will maintain -- in a consistent manner -- the efforts made for the country's defense, security, and revolution. [end recording]

At the work session [name indistinct], Bulgarian deputy foreign cooperation minister, read a report from the commission that states that through the CEMA, the socialist countries are helping Nicaragua to overcome its present circumstances. At the end of the session, on 25 October, a multilateral protocol will be signed for a series of development projects in Nicaragua.

After the second session of the joint CEMA- Nicaraguan commission, Commander Henry Ruiz spoke to newsmen and explained the survival economy issue to them. Commander Ruiz explained that due to the U.S. aggression, Nicaragua has lost $700 million in exports and this affects the national economy, which makes the people's participation in a war economy necessary so that their economic efforts can join our economic and war efforts. He said that this economy is only being implemented in Region 1, where the people have organized and harvested their crops, and where they are participating in defense.

[Begin Ruiz recording] We are talking about survival, not a passive survival but an active survival, through which the people can take advantage of their resources, win the war, and speak of their production. This is the philosophy of survival that we are referring to. When the war ends, what will we do? We cannot refrain from asking that question. However, for this we need resources, capital resources. We have found these resources with CEMA. They are willing to finance us in those areas of development where Nicaragua can develop itself, and also fulfill its commitments to them.

They would provide resources that could be easily reproduced, and offer Nicaragua payment terms that Nicaragua can afford. For example, all of the factories that we are contracting will be paid for with the products they manufacture, but there will also be grade periods after production has begun. We would not have found it in other countries. [end recording]

Cooperation Protocol Signed

PA271529 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 85

[Text] The second meeting of the joint CEMA-Nicaraguan commission was closed last night with the signing of a protocol by delegates of nine countries of the socialist community and Nicaragua. The document deals with cooperation in many development projects in Nicaragua and the training of cadres.

The meeting was chaired by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, minister of foreign cooperation, and the CEMA secretary [not further identified]. The second meeting of the joint CEMA-Nicaragua commission began on 23 October. The CEMA delegates also visited many projects that they will finance, including a large irrigation project.

CONTRA CAMP NEAR SAN MIGUELITO DISMANTLED

PA291948 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1759 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Permanent forces of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] have totally dismantled a counterrevolutionary camp. Defense Ministry sources said that on 25 October, permanent EPS forces totally dismantled a counterrevolutionary camp located 28 km east of San Miguelito near the banks of the Nestor River.

As a result of this EPS action, the camp was totally dismantled. It has also been learned that since the counterrevolutionaries have seen that they are unable to repel any action by the EPS and Interior Ministry Forces, the counterrevolutionaries continue to assassinate the civilian population. Two peasant settlements have been attacked by the counterrevolutionaries. On 23 October, the counterrevolutionaries attacked the Carlos Fonseca settlement, 26 km northeast of Rama, settlement, 27 km northeast of Rama. The settlements are located 1 km from each other. In the first attack, a child was killed by the counterrevolutionaries and a civilian companera was wounded. In the attack on San Ramon, three children were wounded by the counterrevolutionaries. They used rifle fire and M79 grenade launchers in their attacks. This shows their inability to wage a battle with the EPS; instead, they attack civilian populations and assassinate children.

It has also been learned from Defense Ministry sources that the counterrevolutionaries who were withdrawing forces of the Segovia Command in small groups in an area 17 km northeast of Murra and 17 km east of Jalapa clashed with our troops and permanent units. These were forces of the Segovia Command that had been located near Quilali, Wiwili, and Murra, and that are fleeing in small groups towards Las Vegas and Banco Grande. In these actions by the permanent forces of the EPS, three counterrevolutionaries were killed and one was captured.

PLI LEADER DENIES ASKING FOR U.S. INTERVENTION

PA290322 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Dr Juan Manuel Gutierrez, who recently traveled to the United States, invited by the government of that country, said this morning: I would never request U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. During his absence, various Nicaraguan media reported that Dr Gutierrez asked, at a meeting with U.S. congressmen: We are in your hands, what are you waiting for to intervene?

I would never request U.S. intervention; Dr Constantino Pereira invented that to hurt me, said Dr Juan Manuel Gutierrez, leader of the Independent Liberal Party [PLI]. This is what the PLI leader and founder Dr Gutierrez said:

[Begin recording] That is absolutely false. Apparently, the media is not saying this, but reporting what Constantino Pereira told them. First of all, I did not travel to the United States as a PLI representative. The PLI directorate had nothing to do with my trip; I was personally invited by the U.S. Government to carry out studies, attend lectures, conferences and meet with political expects because I am a PLI representative in the National Assembly.

We are drafting a new Nicaraguan political constitution; that is why the U.S. Government, through its ambassador in Nicaragua, invited me to visit. The PLI directorate had nothing to do with this; I did not represent the party; I went on my personal account. [end recording]

SOVIET FOOD SUPPLY SHIP ARRIVES AT CORINTO

PA282246 Managua Sistema Sandinista de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Text] A ship coming from the USSR has arrived at Corinto Port with 74,000 bags of rice and 4,200 tons of edible oil which will solve to a great extent the shortage of oil in the country. These products will be duly channeled for prompt distribution.

CORRECTION TO ORTEGA AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Holds News Conference" published in the 28 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, page P 18, first paragraph, line five:

...issue of the MIGs. What could you... (changing word "missiles" to "MIGs" and deleting editorial notation)

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE CONTINUES VISIT

Castro Hosts Reception

FL291428 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has begun official conversations in Havana with Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Politburo and Soviet Foreign Minister. Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the party, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and FAR minister, was present at the talks.

Later Fidel hosted a reception in honor of Shevardnadze. Top government and state officials and the chiefs of missions from socialist countries attended the reception.

Leaders Visit Isle of Youth

FL291518 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1506 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Politburo and Soviet Foreign Minister, and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro arrived at the Isle of Youth just a few minutes ago. The distinguished visitor and his delegation received a warm welcome from hundreds of pioneers and students at airport in Nueva Gerona.

Meet With Students

FL300057 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Oct 85

[By Diosdado Maso]

[Text] Isle of Youth residents gave a massive and impressive welcome to Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Politburo and Central Committee member of the Soviet Union, and to our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro during today's visit.

At the Isle of Youth's Rafael Cabrera Mustelier Airport, Fidel and his distinquished guest were greeted by the Island's party and government leaders, headed by Armando Manreza, Central Committee alternate member and first secretary in this municipality. They immediately boarded an automobile which took them to the former Modelo Prison, a citrus plant, Iro de Enero and Segundo Congreso ceramic factories, and to the Henry Whitboy Secondary School, where both leaders spoke with Namibian, Nicaraguan, Western Saharan, and Angolan students, among others.

Fidel made reference to repeated visits to that school and said:

[Begin Castro Recording] This shows that the public supports your cause, the public of all the countries of the world. South Africa's fascists and racists, African aggressors, and areas of imperialism are more and more isolated. [end recording]

Shevardnadze Departs

FL300322 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0255 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Tonight CPSU Politburo member Eduard Shevardnadze left our ocuntry. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and other members of the Cuban party and government went to the air terminal to see off the fraternal guest. Shevardnadze, who is also the USSR foreign minister, arrived in Havana on Sunday for a friendly visit.

During his stay he held talks with the party and government's highest leadership. Shevardnadze and the delegation accompanying him this afternoon toured the Isle of Youth with Fidel. Isle of Youth students and workers gave a warm welcome to the visitors on behalf of all our people.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ANGOLA

FL290419 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] A cooperation and technical assistance agreement has been signed by Cuban Minister of Transportation Diocles Torralba and Angolan Minister of Transport and Communications Manuel Bernardo de Sousa, who has been visiting our country for a few days.

A group of Cuban technicians and specialists will go to Angola to provide training in automotive techniques. The Cuban group will also provide assistance to the brother country in the fields of ports, ocean operation technology, commercial exploitation, and automobitive planning and statistics.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH MONGOLIAN OFFICIAL

FL300218 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Oct 85

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, party Politburo member and vice president of the councils of State and Ministers, has received the trade and government delegation from the people's Republic of Mongolia headed by J. Dulmaa, Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee member and foreign trade minister.

During his stay in Cuba the Mongolian minister will sign documents regulating trade relations between the two countries during the next 5-year period and the trade protocol for 1986.

Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Mongolian Ambassador to Cuba (Bayarjudin Nansat) were present at the meeting.

SAO TOME-PRINCIPE OFFICIAL BEGINS VISIT

FL292004 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] This morning Dr Francisco Pires, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement and minister of justice of that brother country, arrived on an official visit. He was met at Jose Marti International Airport by Dr Juan Escalona, member of the Central Committee and Cuban minister of justice.

During his stay in our country Pires will visit the National Assembly of the People's Government, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the Attorney General's Office, and a prison as part of the exchange program between the two organizations.

FIRST ATOMIC REACTOR PARTS EN ROUTE FROM USSR

FL291458 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Excerpts] A news report from Moscow said yesterday that the Soviet (Isorskiy) factory, located in Leningrad, has just sent Cuba the first parts for an atomic reactor that will be installed at the nuclear power plant in Juragua, Cienfuegos Province. In Moscow, it was also announced that next year the body [cuerpo] of the reactor of the Cienfuegos nuclear plant will be sent to Cuba following testing at the factory; the cylindrical casting, weighing 230 tons, has just been completed. The project, which was designed in Lenigrad for Cuba, calls for equipping the Juragua nuclear plant with two (VER-440) generating units, used as the basic generating unit in a series of nuclear plants in Europe.

The installation of the first nuclear plant in Cuba responds to the agreement signed with the USSR on cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy, which also provides for the establishment in Cuba of a center for nuclear studies and the training of qualified personnel in this field.

REAGAN REMARKS ON GRENADA ANNIVERSARY CRITICIZED

FL292000 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Radio Rebelde station commentary by Assistant Director Orlando Contreras]

[Text] Words could have several meanings when in a narration or in a poem they are used to refer suggestively to something else. One can say "the silver star" to refer to the moon as a satellite of the earth. But in logical language used by science or politics, from the time of Aristotle words have one significance in that statements should be interpreted precisely.

Nevertheless, President Reagan made some statements 2 days after his UN speech which to be understood would require an essential change in the logical structure of human thought. Reagan said he had the conviction that true peace should be based on the right of all peoples to choose their destinies without coercion or fear.

Apart from Reagan's everday acts, this statement, based on the basic norms of international rights, is not applicable to Chile. It is known that Washington supports Chile by providing abundant credit to a military dictatorship that oppresses the people.

These statements also do not apply to Nicaragua, a country experiencing a trade blockade and a war imposed 5 years ago which is organized and financed by Washington and has cost the lives of 5,000 people.

The exclusions would also apply to Angola, a country which is being attacked by South African troops with the acceptance of Washington.

For Reagan, the Palestinian people do not have the right to select their own destinies without coercion or fear since he supports Israel, which is illegally occupying their territory.

Reagan's remarks were made on the second anniversary of the U.S. Marine landing on Grenada, an action that eliminated the sovereignty of that Caribbean country.

If all countries can choose their own destinies without coercion or fear, why does he push the insane arms race and "star wars"? Evidently, Reagan's words do not correspond to his actions. His logic is not the logic of Aristotle, but rather imperialistic logic which calls for the use of force against the people who do not comply with his demands or interests.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SEYCHELLES -- The Council of State has appointed Calixto Morales Hernandez ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Cuba to the Seychelles. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Oct 85 FL]

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH DENMARK

FL291535 Bridgetown CANA in English 1459 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Oct 29, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda has established diplomatic relations at non-resident ambassadorial level with the European country of Denmark, a communique from the ministry of foreign affairs here said. The communique said the agreement, which took effect from October 28, is a demonstration of both countries' confidence in each other, and their desire to enhance relations between them to ensure closer and mutually beneficial ties.

Two weeks ago, Antigua and Barbuda established similar diplomatic ties with Norway.

ATTORNEY TO FILE APPEAL OF JOHN'S CONVICTION

FL291545 Bridgetown CANA in English 1506 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Oct 29, CANA -- Defence lawyer in the trial of ex-Dominican Prime Minister Patrick John, Antiguan John Fuller, says he is returning to Roseau today to file an appeal against the conviction. Fuller says the appeal will be based on five legal grounds -- the admissibility of inadmissible evidence, failure by the judge to grant adjournments under the law, misdirection to the jury, breach of fundamental constitutional rights and the admissibility of prejudicial evidence.

John was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by Guyanese Judge Satrohan Singh last week, after a high court jury convicted him of conspiracy to overthrow the Mary Eugenia Charles administration by force of arms in 1981. The nine-member mixed jury also found co-defendants, former deputy commander of the disbanded Dominica Defence Force Malcolm Reid and salesman Julian David, guilty of the conspiracy charge. Reid was also sentenced to 12 years in jail, while David received a five year term. David has already appealed.

DOMINICA

GOVERNMENT REACTS TO JOHN'S CONVICTION

FL292230 Bridgetown CANA in English 2159 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Oct 29, CANA -- The Dominica government says although justice has been done in the Patrick John conspiracy trial, the jailing of a former Prime Minister is a sad thing.

In a reaction to the results of the trial where ex-Prime Minister John and two others were jailed for plotting to violently overthrow the Eugenia Charles government in 1981, Attorney General Brian Alleyne told CANA the fact a former prime minister has been convicted of treason is not a matter that we in the government are happy about. But we are happy that justice has finally been done in the conviction of these men.

Alleyne added: We believe...the evidence supported the conviction and that the sentence is appropriate.

One of the imprisoned men, salesman Julian David yesterday appealed his five-year sentence stating, among other grounds, that it was too excessive.

John and former soldier Malcom Reid received twelve-year prison sentences and have until the fifth of next month to appeal.

John, who won a seat in the July 1 general election this year, will remain a member of Parliament for at least 30 days following his conviction, although he will be unable to perform his functions. According to the Dominica constitution, having been sentenced to more than twelve months in jail, John would be disqualified from being a member of Parliament, but the disqualification would be suspended for thirty days pending a decision as to whether he will appeal. If John appeals there may be further thirty-day extensions pending the outcome of the appeal.

JAMAICA

MANLEY FACES MIXED REACTION TO PNP PLANS

FL291715 Bridgetown CANA in English 1556 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Oct 29, CANA -- Opposition People's National Party (PNP) leader Michael Manley apparently faced a mixed reaction from diplomats here, during discussions yesterday at which he outlined the PNP's alternative economic and social plans and demands for general elections here.

Most diplomats at the 90-minute meeting declined comment, but a report in THE DAILY GLEANER today indicated that the response ran from fear of growing instability in Jamaica to a perception that Manley was the leader the country needed. I can see trouble coming, the paper quoted a senior diplomat as saying in relation to the PNP's pressure for new polls. But another whom the GLEANER said was an envoy of a key ally of the United States, added: I consider (Manley) a leader. There is more in this man than I can see in any other man in this country.

Manley told reporters that the meeting provided for a useful exchange and that many questions were asked. The PNP initiative comes amid growing discontent here with the policies of the Edward Seaga government, whose economic programmes have included large scale currency devaluation and massive cost of living rises. The PNP boycotted snap general elections here in December 1983 on the grounds that an outdated voters' list was used, disfranching thousands, and that the government did not implement agreed reforms to eliminate fraudulent voting. It is insisting that Prime Minister Seaga and his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) conclude their mandate tomorrow, based on the 1980 elections.

Seaga has dismissed such arguments, and he indicated that it will ignore calls for an election and stay in office until at least 1988.

However, the PNP, stepping up its campaign, has planned an all night vigil tomorrow in Kingston's National Heroes Park, followed by a march onto the Central Bank, to protest the foreign exchange auction system under which the Jamaican dollar has been steadily devalued and the government's economic policies. An auction is scheduled for Thursday.

The GLEANER quoted one diplomat as saying that it was evident from Manley's presentation that the PNP was eager to put more pressure on Seaga to hold an election. Once the PNP started, things would go down hill very quickly, the unifentified diplomat was quoted as saying. However, another, commenting on the PNP's economic strategy, was quoted as saying: It will be good for Jamaica.

BILL APPROVED TO RESTRICT OVERSEAS VOTING

FL261843 Bridgetown CANA in English 1737 GMT 26 Oct 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 26, CANA -- The Guyana parliament has approved a bill to restrict overseas and proxy voting and abolish postal balloting, with general elections widely expected to be held in December. Overseas voting, previously open to all Guyanese in the United States, Britain and Canada, will now be restricted to public sector employees -- embassy and consular officials -- and students engaged in full time course of study abroad. Last night's vote on the representation of the people bill 1985 was 37-5.

The main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) voted against the measure, arguing that electoral reforms, announced this month by President Desmond Hoyte in response to persistent allegations of rigging, did not go far enough.

Responding to PPP criticism of government's rejection of permission for observer teams to visit Guyana for the forthcoming poll, Attorney General and First Deputy Prime Minister Doctor Mohammed Shahabuddeen said the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) regime did not object to anyone coming to Guyana to observe the general elections. What is strongly objected to is for external organizations constituting themselves into an inquisitorial team to look at our elections, the government official declared. Shahabuddeen said the government was committed to free and fair elections in this country.

The attorney general predicted that the opposition would lose the elections, constitutionally due by March 31, 1986. The opposition knows they would lose the elections so they are beginning with charges of rigging, he said. But little does the opposition know, Doctor Shahabuddeen added, that this last base of excuse is in danger of being removed.

Opposition political parties here, including the PPP led by ex-Premier Dr Cheddi Jagan, the Working People's Alliance (WPA) and the right wing Democratic Labour Movement (DLM), had all called for an end to overseas voting. Explaining his party's stance on the bill, Dr Jagan, who is opposition leader, said there should have been round table dialogue to resolve certain issues of the measure. Who will control the overseas ballots, he asked.

PPP frontbencher Repu Deaman Persaud had called for a deferment of the bill to allow political parties contesting the election to have adequate time to scrutinise the overseas electoral roll. He insisted that opposition parties should have agents during the voting and counting of overseas ballots and wanted ballots to be counted at polling stations.

Doctor Shahabuddeen, the government's chief spokesman on the measure, said there was never any question put before by the opposition on ballots being counted at polling places. Dr Shahabuddeeen also rejected a PPP request for the Army to be confined to barracks on election day. The attorney general said this would be impractical since the GDF (Guyana Defence Force) must help to operate the voting system.

Responding to other opposition allegations that the provisions for voting by the disciplined forces were open to abuse, Shahabuddeen said the voting system had safeguards against such eventualities.

President Hoyte in his broadcast announcing the proposed electoral reforms had said the move was to satisfy calls by the opposition and to end once and for all charges by the opposition that elections are rigged. The opposition contends that the PNC, in office here for 21 years, has maintained itself in power by rigging all elections from 1968.